

*Belize's leading newspaper*

# FECTAB “ballistic” over propose Southern Cruise expansion

*David Almendarez, president of FECTAB, says the “further development” of cruise tourism in southern Belize through a GoB partnership with Belize Island Holdings spells bad news for Belize City’s tourism dollar.*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Today, representatives of the Federation of Cruise Tourism Associations of Belize (FECTAB) hosted a press conference at which the president David Almendarez, went to great lengths to condemn the Government of Belize’s current attempts to “explore the possibilities of expansion of cruise port possibilities down south.” Almendarez expressed his view that any such possible move



David Almendarez — president, FECTAB

would result in a diversion of cruise

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## Embattled ex-ambassador remains Co-agent at ICJ

*by Marco Lopez*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Yesterday, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño confirmed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ decision to retain Alexis Rosado as Co-agent in the preparation of Belize’s legal response to Guatemala’s claim to Belizean territory that is currently before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), due to his in-depth knowledge of the claim and



Alexis Rosado - Co-agent at ICJ for Belize-Guatemala Territorial Dispute/ Charged with Rape

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## IMF: Fuel price stabilization measures should be temporary

*by Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

On Tuesday, May 10, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued an official report on Belize’s financial standing



following the release of its preliminary findings back in February. While the report highlighted Belize’s strong economic recovery, citing the increase of GDP by almost 10% in 2021, it also pointed out that the country’s primary

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## COVID-19 uptick in Belize and Cayo



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Last night a total of 58 new COVID-19 cases were identified by the Ministry of Health and Wellness—lifting the positivity rate in the country to 5.58%. Of the 25 positive cases in the Belize District, 19 cases were identified in Belize City yesterday, and 20 new cases were recorded in the Cayo District. In response to the increasing number of cases, the Health Ministry released a statement yesterday reminding the public of the importance of adhering to prevention measures, despite the removal of the requirement that

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## Belize City centenarian Leonora Patnett dies at 108

*by Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. May 9, 2022

AMANDALA is saddened to inform its readers that on Monday, May 9, Belize City resident Leonora Patnett passed away at the age of 108. Patnett was born on December 13, 1913, making her one of the few Belizeans to have lived to see their centennial years.

When asked what she believed contributed to her enjoying so many years of life, Patnett often attributed it to her faith.

“Only God could tell you. Only God could tell you. He’s keeping me up. I pray that I live to see it and anytime God say ‘well, I ready for you’, then I am ready too, because it is a long time that I live,”

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Leonora Patnett on her 108th birthday

# Embattled ex-ambassador remains Co-agent at ICJ

**With just one month remaining before the deadline for Belize's submission of its counter-memorial to the ICJ in response to Guatemala's 500-page memorial in which it outlines its claim to Belizean territory, embattled Co-agent at the ICJ, Alexis Rosado, who has been charged with rape, remains an active member of Belize's ICJ team. PM Briceño told reporters, "I support his [the Minister of Foreign Affairs'] recommendation that we need to use him at this time because we are right there going to court."**

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Belize-Guatemala relations, his years of experience as a diplomat, and his key role in drafting, and directing research for, Belize's counter-memorial in response to Guatemala's submitted document. On June 8, less than a month from now, the team from Belize is expected to submit the final draft of the document to the international court, and recently, it was reported that Rosado has been actively involved in strategy sessions of the country's ICJ team and the final scrutiny of the counter-memorial, despite his legal troubles.

Following Rosado's arraignment on Wednesday, April 20, in the Belmopan Magistrate's Court, where sexual assault and rape charges were brought against him in connection with the allegations of a woman in her twenties that he had engaged in illicit sexual relations with her since she was 13, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration had issued a press release which stated,

"At the direction of the Ministry, Ambassador Rosado has relinquished his diplomatic postings overseas." At that point, almost all Belizeans had concluded that he would no longer be a part of the ICJ team at The Hague. The Sunday, April 24 edition of the AMANDALA had in fact stated, after noting the adjournment of Rosado's case until July 6, 2022, that Rosado would "likely be obliged to stay in the country until the case concludes".

It had even appeared that Prime Minister Briceño had confirmed the removal of Rosado from his post as Co-agent when he had told local reporters that the removal of Rosado would have "absolutely no" effect on the drafting of our counter-memorial.

He had stated, "Alexis Rosado played a very, very important role—a senior role—in the work we've been doing in preparing our case to the ICJ, but as Co-agents, what they do is they collate, they put all of the papers together. We have different attorneys dealing with the different issues and then they put it

together and present it to the ICJ."

The Prime Minister had further noted, "Fortunately, we don't have one, we have two Co-agents, meaning that there is more than one. The other Co-agent is Ambassador Assad Shoman, a senior ambassador when it comes to—and probably the most knowledgeable person when it comes to—the issue of the Belize-Guatemala dispute. So no, it will not in any way affect us."

However, when reports surfaced this week that Ambassador Rosado had this week been acting as Co-agent at a strategy session in the United Kingdom, during which efforts were made to finalize Belize's counter-memorial, and after Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Eamon Courtenay indicated via text to a local media house that "Ambassador Rosado remains a Co-agent for Belize for the ICJ case and is in London working on finalizing Belize's counter-memorial," the Prime Minister made comments to reporters that marked a huge shift from the views he had expressed at the end of April regarding Rosado's role.

The PM suggested this week that removing Rosado at this 11th hour in the proceeding could be detrimental for Belize.

"Right now we have something that is an existential threat to our country, which is the case between Belize and Guatemala. He has been working as one of our co-agents. Along with Assad Shoman, I would say he is one of the most knowledgeable persons when it comes to the Belize-Guatemala [dispute]. I am certain the Foreign Minister has a reason he kept him there and simply is we are right at the point where we are preparing our counter-memorial to present to the ICJ. Now, God forbid, we did not use his expertise and because we did not use his expertise and we go to court and there is some mix up and we pay the consequences by losing a portion of Belize." Prime Minister Briceño said.

He went on to say, "Every family in this country, I believe ninety-nine percent of the families in this country have had some case of abuse within the family. In most instances it is a family friend or family member. So, that kind of abuse is heinous and we need to do everything possible to go after the perpetrator, and Alexis Rosado is no exception. But, before we get to that point that has to be determined whether he is innocent or guilty. Our system says you are innocent until you are determined you are guilty. So, what did we do? We immediately removed him from Brussels, where he was representing us as our ambassador."

Objections to Rosado's continued role as Co-agent have come from many quarters and have been made by persons who argue that any other public officer facing such charges would have been placed on interdiction. And while the PM agrees that no exceptions should be made for Rosado in the prosecution of this case against him, he holds a differing view when considering Rosado's expertise and his contribution to Belize's case at the ICJ.

"We want to make sure we have the

best possible case at this time. And Alexis has dedicated his life to public service and to this issue of Belize-Guatemala, and the Foreign Minister believes at this time, and I support him with that, his recommendation that we need to use him at this time because we are right there going to court. It is not like it happened a year ago when we have time to be able to regroup and try to see what we can do. This is going to court in June. And right now, our Foreign Minister should have been in London, where we're finalizing the document, the comb-through before it goes to court," he said.

It is worth noting that Rosado was Ambassador of Belize to the Republic of Guatemala during the previous UDP administration and was also non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama. When he was reassigned by the Briceño administration, following the November 2020 elections, to serve in Belgium, as the Ambassador-designate to the European Union, and the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, the United Democratic Party had publicly objected to the move, stating that the transfer would "substantially compromise his ability to focus on his duties as a Co-Agent" of Belize in the preparation of a legal defense of the country at the ICJ.

As Co-agent alongside chief agent Assad Shoman and a team consisting of Senior Counsel Sam Wordsworth QC, Dr. Ben Juratowith QC and Mathias Forteau; Junior Counsel Amy Sander, Philippa Webb and Kate Parlett; Support Counsel Catherine Drummond and Jamie Trinidad; and Hydrographer/Geographer Robin Cleverly, Ambassador Rosado has played a critical role in directing the research that provided the framework for Belize's counter-memorial, which is a response to the memorial submitted by Guatemala last year.

After Guatemala had submitted its memorial to the ICJ, the government of Belize had stated on a GoB website, "Today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received Guatemala's Memorial in relation to Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim to Belizean territory which it filed at the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the Court's order of 22 April 2020 extending the date for such submission following Guatemala's request for extension, citing delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guatemalan Memorial states what Guatemala is claiming in terms of continental land, islands and seas, and the legal grounds for such claims. It consists of one volume of 500 pages, 462 Annexes, 8 Maps and 24 Figures. The Court's order of 22 April 2020 also extended until 8 June 2022 the time for the filing of Belize's Counter-Memorial. The Belize Office of the Agent to the ICJ, in collaboration with the international team of experts, is already at work in preparing Belize's Counter Memorial which will resolutely reject Guatemala's Claim and strongly assert Belize's claim to all its territory, islands and seas in accordance with international law."

## IMF: Fuel price stabilization ..

**While the IMF has commended Belize for its economic growth, it also advised that the Government's measures for fuel price stabilization should only be temporary. Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, however, says his focus is on the people, not the numbers.**

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balance (the difference between its revenue and its expenditure) is expected to decline to 0.1 percent of GDP this fiscal year, as a result of the Government's recently implemented measures for mitigating fuel price increases.

For the country's primary balance to stabilize at near 0.6 percent of GDP for fiscal years 2023 to 2032, the IMF stated that Belize would need "a passive scenario with no additional measures."

It also noted that for Belize to restore its debt sustainability and increase its primary balance, the fuel subsidies and other measures such as the fuel stabilization fund, all of which were implemented to mitigate the rise in fuel prices, should be temporary.

In response to the report, however, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño told local media that while the IMF is focused on the numbers, the Government's aim is reducing poverty through economic growth—something which would have been stifled by the skyrocketing fuel prices.

"The IMF looks at numbers. We look at people. We're here to try our very best to make the lives of our citizens better. And if that means that we have to get the IMF upset, well, so be it. We need to be able to see what we can do. We have every confidence that with what we're doing and continuing to push the growth of the economy, that the primary balance, we hope that it can be able to improve by the end of the year," he stated.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the fact that while the IMF's report early last year was largely negative, it eventually ended up praising the country for its

economic rebound.

In addition to emphasizing Belize's economic recovery over the past year, the IMF report also commended the country for its novel Blue Bond initiative, which it referred to as a "debt for marine protection swap" deal with The Nature Conservancy.

"Jaime Guajardo, the IMF's mission chief for Belize, said the deal is of tremendous benefit to the country and contributes to the authorities' objectives of restoring debt sustainability, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing resilience to natural disasters and climate change," wrote the IMF's Nicholas Owen.

Through the Blue Bond arrangement, Belize has been lent funds by a subsidiary of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in order to buy back its previous Superbond—a debt of US \$553 million—at a discounted price of 55 cents per dollar. In exchange, Belize has committed to spending US \$4.2 million annually on marine conservation until the year 2041. It has also committed to expanding its Biodiversity Protection Zones, which include coral reefs, mangroves, and fish spawning sites, from 16 percent of its ocean area to 20 percent by the year 2026. Additionally, the country established an endowment fund of US \$23.5 million to fund marine conservation after 2041.

"These initiatives will also support the authorities' efforts to strengthen resilience to natural disasters and climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said the IMF.

According to the report, the Blue Bond reduced public debt by 12 percent of GDP in 2021 and will also enhance the protection of the marine environment going forward.



# 3 sisters go missing

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

A Belize City family is asking the public to be on the lookout for three sisters, ages 15, 11, and 10 years old, who went missing on Wednesday afternoon. According to reports, the three girls, Kaylin, Katlyn, and Kayc'lyn Diego, left their home on Cleghorn Street at some time around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, and since then their whereabouts have been unknown.

AMANDALA spoke with a friend of the girls' family, Hiroshima Laureano, who was also one of the last persons to have seen the trio before they disappeared. She told us that at the time she, regrettably, didn't



*Kaylin, Katlyn and Kayc'lyn Diego, missing*

think anything out of the norm was happening when she encountered two of the three siblings near JEC on Youth for the Future Drive. She did, however, note that one of the girls, 11-year-old Katlyn, was wearing a thick grey sweater in the afternoon heat. She asked the two girls if they

were okay, and they replied that they were taking a walk.

Then, at around 3:00 p.m., as she neared her home, Laureano says she saw the oldest sister, Kaylin, going to meet the other two.

"I would have never thought in a million years that that is what was

happening," said Laureano, who told us she was utterly shocked when she saw the news the following morning.

Kaylin Diego, 15, is of brown complexion and has a short afro hairstyle. She is of medium build and weighs about 120 lbs. She was last seen wearing a light yellow blouse, long blue jeans and a pair of Nike slippers.

Katlyn Diego, 11, also of brown complexion, has her hair in an afro style and weighs approximately 95 lbs.

She is slim built and stands at 5 feet 1 inch in height.

Kayc'lyn Diego, 10, has her hair braided into singles. She weighs about 90 lbs and is 4 feet 4 inches tall. The three girls are of Garifuna descent.

It has been asked that anyone who sees the girls kindly call 911 or 922.

# Swing Bridge and Belcan Bridge to be replaced

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 11, 2022

Currently, construction is underway as part of a government effort to erect new structures that will replace the current Haulover Bridge located just outside of Belize City on the Philip Goldson Highway, which has been operational since 1949. A Government of Belize Press Office release in

January informed the public that "two permanent mid-river foundation piers" are being constructed in the Belize River "at a location just downstream of the existing bridge." According to Minister of Infrastructure Development, Hon. Julius Espat, that work, which is being carried out by M&M Engineering Consultants Ltd., is "on stream" and "on schedule". "We also have the portion of that road

**The Minister of Infrastructure and Development, Hon. Julius Espat, told reporters that both the Swing Bridge and Belcan Bridge need to be replaced.**

leading after the Haulover Bridge that was washed away by the river. That's already—the retaining wall has had been cast. They're curing right now, and after that, they will be placed," he told local reporters on Tuesday of this week at a ceremony for the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project.

Hon. Espat revealed, however, that two much-used bridges within Belize City—the iconic Swing Bridge in downtown Belize City and Belcan Bridge, located near to Save U Supermarket—will also have to undergo extensive repairs and might in fact have to be replaced. He said that efforts are currently underway to secure the needed financing to carry out those projects.

"We did some engineering analysis of the Swing Bridge, and I did—I specifically told the engineers to take a boat and go under the Bel China to do an analysis and to go under the Belcan Bridge. The three reports came in. Swing Bridge has to be replaced. But, because of the work that was

recently done, it prolongs the life a little bit more. The one that worries me is the Belcan. The Belcan Bridge is in a state of disrepair that only if you go under the bridge will you understand. So, I went, and I am seeking financing. I think we are very close to obtaining financing to replace both the Swing Bridge and the Belcan Bridge, because if not, somebody will get hurt, and we don't want that," stated Minister Espat.



*Belcan bridge*



*Swing Bridge*

# Killer of Oh sisters gets two life sentences

***Wilmer Escobar will be eligible for parole after 30 years and 8 months.***

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Yesterday, 24-year-old Wilmer Escobar, a resident of Bella Vista village in Toledo, was sentenced to 35 years in prison in the Southern session of the Supreme Court for the 2018 double murder of Cresencia Oh, 19, and Josephine. Oh, 17—two sisters who resided in San Antonio village in the Toledo district. Justice Antoinette Moore, who presided over a trial without jury that started in November of 2021, handed down the sentences, which will run concurrently. Since Escobar had been on remand for four years and four months, he will actually spend an additional 30 years and 8 months in prison before being eligible for parole.

In January of 2018, the sisters, who were heading back to their home in San Antonio village after attending a church service in San Jose village in Toledo, were chopped to death by Escobar on an off-road near San Antonio Village, Toledo, and forensic evidence gathered from the



*Wilmer Escobar -- sentenced to 35 years in prison*

bodies at the time indicated that they had been raped as well. The victims were found partially nude on the road, with a number of chop wounds in their head.

Last November, when the trial of Escobar started, he was being represented by the late Herbert Panton and the case was prosecuted by Crown Counsel Javier Chan, who secured the admission of a confession statement given by Escobar to police. In that statement, he admitted to killing both sisters and raping one of them.



# Fishers oppose new regulations

*New amendments to Belize's Fisheries Regulations have the country's fisherfolk up in arms. But according to the Fisheries Department, the updated regs are more than ten years overdue.*

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 11, 2022

As Lobster Season, which is scheduled to open on July 1, approaches, several fishing communities and a large number of fisherfolk are expressing their ire at the new regulations introduced by the Fisheries Department to govern the minimum size of lobsters that can be legally harvested. Many of those fishers are claiming that the amended Fisheries Regulations, which took effect on March 1 of this year, will severely affect their livelihood.

The amendments now prohibit the capture of lobsters with a tail weight of less than 4.5 ounces (rather than the previous 4 ounces) and require that whole lobsters be at least 3.25 inches, rather than the previously required 3 inches, in length—something which one group of fishers says will reduce their catch by 25% compared to last year, since lobsters larger than the newly required size are rarely found. Furthermore, changes have been made to the number of lobster traps allowed for each fisher, and an increase in the required escape gap size of lobster traps is reportedly also in the works.

In response to the growing complaints, which have come from fishers in all corners of the country, the Fisheries Department held a press briefing this week. Acting Administrator of the Department, Rigoberto Quintana was there to answer questions. He told local media that the department has been

having discussions with various entities about the amendments since June of last year. Many fishers, however, have claimed that the department never consulted with them prior to implementation of the new rules.

Quintana also noted that the changes in the Fisheries Regulations are long overdue. In 2009, Belize signed a binding agreement with the Organization of Fisheries and Agriculture in Central America (OPESCA) to update its Fisheries Regulations, which it then failed to comply with for almost a decade. In 2019, OPESCA wrote to the Government of Belize, inquiring about the lack of compliance.

“Belize requested an extension to 2019 to implement some of these measures in place. We have had these ongoing discussions, especially at the levels of cooperatives and some of the fishers. June last year, we had these discussions again with the main exporters, which is Northern National to say, you know what, let us move forward with this and let us do it for the next fishing season. That is why we passed that law last year, and the regulations come into force the first of March,” he stated.

According to Quintana, the only issue left to be discussed with the Fisheries Council is the required size of the lobster trap escape gaps. The other regulations are already in effect.

In response to the fishers' claims that they had not been consulted, Quintana said that the department has had several

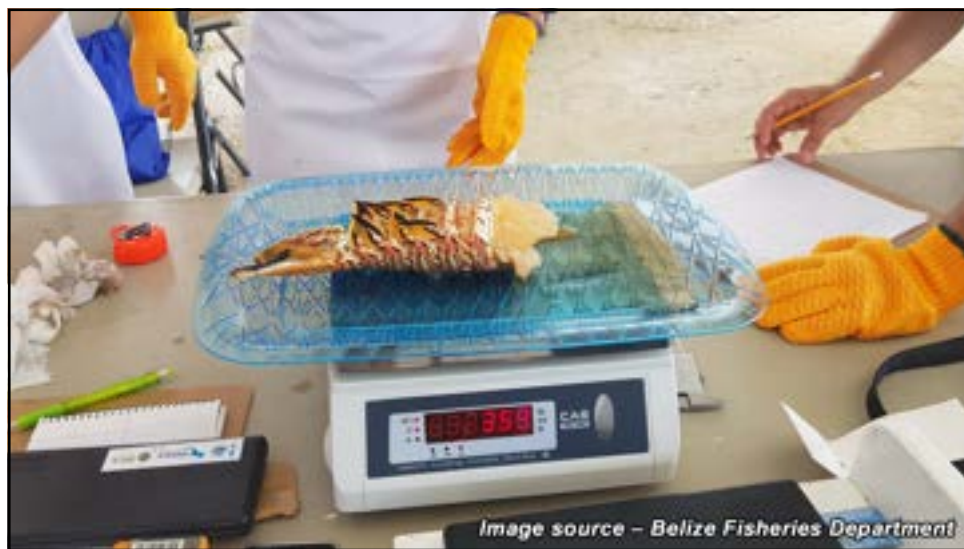


Image source - Belize Fisheries Department

discussions with entities that provide representation for fisherfolk, with the most recent meeting regarding the new legislation having taken place in October of last year.

“Maybe some fishers are not aware, but we have the highest decision body in this country, which is the Fisheries Council, and there we have four representation of our fishers. We have the Chunox Fishermen Association. We have the Hopkins Fisherman Association. We also have the two largest cooperatives, which they form part of the council and they participate in these decisions. Whether this information is not being channelled to the other fishermen is something that we have to discuss further, but they are informed of all the measures the department is taking, and they are being consulted,” he said.

The new regulations come at a time when fishers, like the majority of the Belizean population, have been seeing their livelihood threatened by rising fuel prices and the overall increased cost of living. And while the amendments will certainly have an immediate effect on the fisherfolk, Quintana noted that it is what's

best for Belize's fisheries in the long run.

“We cannot use the excuse of high fuel prices and not be a responsible institution to manage the fisheries, whether prices go for one dollar or twenty dollars, our mandate at Fisheries Department is to manage the lobster resources in this country,” he stated.

Quintana also noted that as a result of an increase in the minimum size of lobsters that can be legally caught, lobsters will be allowed a better chance at reproducing before being harvested, which will ultimately increase the number of lobsters in the wild.

“Yes, the cooperatives have indicated that probably initially they might see a 15% decline in production, but eventually that production will stabilize,” he further said.

In regard to the fishers' method of voicing their qualms—which so far has included a petition—Quintana stated that they should approach the Ministry and the Fisheries Department formally. One group, a community of fishers from Caye Caulker, has stated that they are currently seeking an audience with the Minister of Blue Economy, Hon. Andre Perez.

## FECTAB “ballistic” over propose Southern Cruise expansion

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ship passengers and revenue from the Belize City cruise tourism hub, to Norwegian Cruise Line's Harvest Caye destination, owned by Belize Island Holdings Limited, a subsidiary of the mega cruise company, located in southern Belize.

In a Cabinet release issued on April 28, the government mentioned the proposed development.

“Approval was granted by Cabinet for the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations to initiate a formal process of review of the current definitive agreement between the government and Belize Island Holdings Limited to improve and facilitate the future growth and development of cruise tourism in Southern Belize,” the Cabinet release stated.

While Almendarez said that the government may try to forward this agenda at tomorrow's sitting of the House of Representatives, there is no indication that there is a motion to introduce any expansion or further development of the Harvest Caye facility at this time.

Almendarez, for his part, cried foul on the part of area representatives on the Southside of Belize City who he suggests are supporting this government

decision. He added that persons with ties to big business interests from Southern Belize may be behind this recent push for further cruise tourism development down south. The Harvest Caye facility is located just off the coast of Placencia.

“As far as I know, Placencia has never been a cruise-ship-destined port. I am very good friend with the people from Placencia, and they are upset that this one is there now; now because of some well-connected Southern businessmen who are very well-connected, I could hala names and unu wa know, they have the master plan... It's a well-designed plan to keep the money inna wa central location, but the saddest part about that, when you do that, the money gets charged by credit card, and when you get charged by credit card, that nuh coh yah, ih nuh benefit we yah, nobody yah. That nuh stay, that goh soh.” Almendarez said.

Almendarez believes that the expansion of southern cruise tourism would result in a decline of the industry in other areas and is calling on the Government of Belize to backtrack from any such possible move. “If the ship they goh down south...everybody goh pan one island; everything control by credit card by that island, everything got a big operator. You know bout H20

Tierra, you know bout Chuckka, you know bout Dark Night, den deh da the bigger people. They wah win! You hear who wah win, they wah win, cause they have the contracted tours with the tour company. We all know they cruise ship wah keep all they money inna they pocket. We at FECTAB, we are not suppose to be here, the private tour operator, we nuh suppose to deh inna the business, we suppose to fall inna line and goh work fi Chuckka and goh work fi Dark Night and they companies; that da weh they wa we do, and I do tell unu open unu eyes. They do sell we out,” Almendarez said.

The Belize Invest website states, “The Eco/Adventure Cruise Port will allow cruise line passengers to experience Belize at its finest on the island that has all the imaginable amenities to pamper the discerning tourist.”

While FECTAB has blasted the possibility of cruise port expansion in southern Belize, one particular cruise project in the Belize District, Stake Bank's development at Port Coral, has the full approval of the federation, which has at various points publicly defended that mega cruise port development, despite in some instances pushback in some quarters based on environmental concerns. It has been reported that the federation and Stake Bank Enterprise

Limited have entered a 25-year arrangement through which members of the federation would be granted opportunities to work at and alongside the Port Coral cruise facility.

“We at FECTAB are proud to tell the nation of Belize, those years ago, not long ago, in fact, we managed, under the last administration, to get a twenty-five years bonafide, guaranteed, contract with Port Coral—access, complete, unfettered access. It was given, I know about it, and so does the president. It was given in great glee; the Feinstein group was happy to do it. And when we showed it to our membership of tour guides, operators, taxi drivers, etc. everybody was quite happy, and thinking only of we are waiting for this thing to happen,” Tom Greenwood, president emeritus of FECTAB stated in an October 2021 interview.

Of note, Act 1 of 2016, the Belize Island Holdings Facility Development Act 2016 ratifies the September 2014 agreement between the Government of Belize and Belize Island Holdings Ltd., and grants cruise port exclusivity to the company in Southern Belize. Section 7 of that legislation states, “During the term of the Agreement, the port facility shall be the exclusive cruise ship port for the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts.”





## Generous gifts from AMLO and the Mexican people

There's nothing new about Mexico showering Belize with gifts, so it was no surprise when, on a state visit to Belize on Saturday, the president of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (called AMLO) poured out the love. Mexico is our good neighbor; they were the first to establish diplomatic relations with us when we became an independent nation in 1981.

After the visit, PM Briceño announced that the president of Mexico promised us three new vocational high schools, similar to the one they gave us in 1983, *Escuela Secundaria Técnica México* in San Roman. Additionally, Agriculture Minister, Hon. Jose Mai, said that very shortly two thousand Belizean small farmers will be receiving financial and technical assistance from Mexico over a four-month period.

The biggest gift of all was the lifting of tariffs on agricultural products from our country. We are a small country with a small local market. It's an economic rule that the greater the number of consumers, the lower the cost of goods, and the smaller the number of consumers, the higher the cost of goods. With the tariffs removed, our agricultural products have found a market of over 120 million people with the most favorable conditions.

It's almost too good to be true. It harks to the days when the countries that form the European Union gave preferential treatment to our sugar and bananas. We couldn't be condemned if we pinched ourselves just a little, because countries are not in the habit of giving away their business.

We shouldn't worry that our neighbor would be endangering its economy in any way with this largesse. Compared to Mexico, Belize is a tiny country. Their population is about 300 times ours, so even if our farmers were competitive with theirs, we

couldn't cause much harm. Our farmers are not competitive with theirs. Mexico is both a temperate and a tropical country and everything we can do in agriculture, they can do better. On top of their natural edge, Mexican farmers, like American farmers, are heavily subsidized. Belize's farmers don't get much financial support from our government.

We must make every effort to capitalize on our neighbor literally throwing open her doors to us. PM Briceño noted that Quintana Roo, the region of Mexico closest to Belize, is not big on agriculture, so there is much potential there for our farmers, particularly our rice, beans, corn, livestock, shrimp, and fish producers. Hopefully he is right. There exists a massive trade differential between Mexico and Belize. World trade reports say we bought US\$ 133 million worth of goods from Mexico in 2020, while they bought only US\$ 12.4 million worth of goods from us.

Livestock production is just about the only area where we come close to competing with the Mexicans, and that's because it is the agroindustry that is least dependent on

foreign inputs. Cattle eat grass and legumes. A lot of grass and legumes grow in Belize.

Since coming to power in November 2020 the PUP government has been pushing to do greater business with Mexico, and it achieved a breakthrough of sorts with the exportation of cattle on the hoof. There was overstocking on the ranches, and the new government got the animals moving to Guatemala, and Mexico. The previous government has charged that the new government promoted trade that was not entirely aboveboard, and that following the process they had set up would eventually have yielded similar results.

The opportunities are great for beef from Belize, but before we get too excited over the zero tariffs incentive, there must be a think tank, thought that must be put in now, to decide how much more of our forest we will give up to raising cattle. We have seen how much damage the new sugar farm in Cayo has done to the jaguar corridor.

Belize is not the only country the Mexican president visited last week. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador were also important stops by AMLO, on a trip the foreign press said was aimed at opening discussions and initiating programs to alleviate economic hardship in our region. Pressures caused by hurricanes and droughts and Covid-19 have exacerbated poverty in Central America, and in recent years caravans of destitute persons have been making their way through Mexico, to get to the USA. Thousands have met stiff US resistance at the Rio Grande, and this has led to numerous humanitarian crises in Mexico. On Saturday, AMLO praised the Belize government and people for our amnesty program that will regularize upward of 40,000 people, most of them Central Americans.

In the effort to stimulate ravaged economies in the region the US government has committed over US\$ 1.2 billion to the private sector in Central America. The US is a great and generous nation, with faults. AMLO also visited Cuba, where he made a call for the US to drop its 6-decades long, stifling economic embargo on that nation, and Mexico has threatened to boycott the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas, set to convene in June. PM Briceño, the current chairman of the Caribbean Community, says the group is insisting that Cuba and Venezuela also get invitations to the summit.

Mexico is pushing free trade as a practical solution to the economic problems in the region, and the removal of tariffs on agricultural exports from Belize might be a sweetener to get us on board. In February the Belize Press Office announced that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay had been working with counterparts in Mexico to formalize an agreement that would be "vital for the economic development of Belize, including growth in exports to Mexico." The pro-business *Reporter*, in its editorial last week, stated that in negotiations with our country, Mexico had "made it clear that she prefers a free trade agreement instead of a partial scope agreement covering specified items."

The *Reporter* noted a number of positives that free trade with Mexico would bring and said that while it might be stressful, if we are inventive and do our homework right it is "eminently do-able!" It will take some convincing to make us see how free trade with Mexico could serve Belize. In agriculture, Mexico can do everything better than we can, and their superiority is magnified in almost every other business endeavor, except tourism. We might not be able to go any further than accepting this no-tariffs gift from our neighbor.

Belize has its share of blessings. Our country is one of the most beautiful on the planet; democracy is alive and well in our land; our people have never given up hope that better economic times will come, and while our neighbor to the west and south has been aggressive toward us, to the immediate north of us lies a neighbor that more than makes up for the stress caused by the one that claims our territory. On Saturday our neighbor to the north came through for us again.



(estb. 1969)

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# PM praises teachers

*The Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceno, expressed gratitude to the country's teachers on his social media page.*

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

On Thursday, May 12, which is recognized as Teachers Day in Belize, educators throughout the country were being honored for their irreplaceable role in the shaping of the nation.

This year's Teachers Day was observed under the theme, "Dedicated to service, unified by passion, leading through difficult times," and the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceno, in recognition of such service and leadership, expressed his gratitude to teachers countrywide via a social media post.

"Parents may be a child's first teacher, but once school years commence, teachers take on a multitasking role in the school setting. Teachers become parents, nurses, caregivers, counselors, friends, mentors... The role of a teacher can never be overstated. They provide the building blocks for young lives, professional lives, leaders, and builders of our society and nation," stated Prime Minister Briceno in the post.



PM with teachers

"...Today, we pause to say thank you... thank you for every hug you shared with a child, every busted knee you patched, [every] crying eye you dried, every meal or resource you provided from your own pockets, [and] every lesson you imparted. Every child who experienced this is the better... the stronger for it," the Prime Minister further said.

The Ministry of Education held an event at Old Belize today to help teachers celebrate the day, in attendance were Education minister Francis Fonseca and president of the Belize National Teachers Union, Elena Smith, both of whom gave remarks. In July of this year teachers are to receive a reinstatement of their full salary after enduring a 10% cut. All schools are to revert to full in-class learning at the start of the new year.

We salute the nation's teachers.

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# CLASSIFIED ADS

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**NOTICE:** I, Kenrick Logan, have

## NOTICE

lost my certificate of registration SC-0688. Name of boat - KEINA, color and size - blue and white hull, 25ft fiberglass.

**NOTICE:** I, Kamera Kathleen Belisle, owner of M/V: KAYLEAH THE TWO QUEEN'S bearing registration number BZ-2705 have lost my registration certificate.

**NOTICE:** I, Warren Cabral, have lost my certificate of registration SC-1387. Name of vessel: SEA CABRAL, color scheme: Maroon hull, yellow stripe w/ grey canopy.

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DEADLINE FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022



# Groundbreaking held for Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 10, at Mile 59 of the Philip Goldson Highway to mark the commencement of work to upgrade a portion of the highway that stretches from Mile 24 in Biscayne village to the Corozal border, including the Remate Bypass.

The Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project is one of many projects being carried out by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development through



Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Project ground-breaking

funding from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), which, combined with aid from the United Kingdom and funding from the

Government of Belize, totals an estimated 114 million dollars.

During his keynote speech at the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, noted that the improvement of that stretch of road and the bypass will significantly raise the level of safety of traveling within the country, since 50 percent of fatal road traffic incidents which occurred in 2016 took place on the Philip Goldson Highway—a significant number of them occurring at the infamous Mameyal Curve.

“There is another significant benefit that will come when this bypass is completed, and that is safety. In 2016, a total of 101 road traffic fatalities were recorded, of which, just under 50 percent occurred here along the Philip Goldson Highway. And talking about these fatalities, part here, where we have all of these curves, probably is one of the most dangerous parts of any of the highways that we have in the country,” stated Hon. Briceño.

He went on to state, “Many of those who suffered serious injuries or suffered fatalities are among the economical age groups who fall between the ages of 15 and 64. The tragedy of their loss of friends and family is one important aspect, but the other is their untimely death correlates to an estimated cost of 150 million dollars in losses in economic possibilities.”

Enea Sermasi, Head of International Business Development for Politecnica Ingegneria and Architettura in Italy, which is spearheading the construction work, said that they and Belize had the same vision when it comes to construction projects and development.

“We’ve always had the same vision for construction projects, which is providing our services always focusing on the impacts and the consequences of the building environment on communities and their territories in order to guarantee and safeguard inclusive, resilient, and sustainable benefits to both of them. Connecting communities, creating infrastructures that foster growth, prosperity, and social equality while respecting the environment and people’s wellbeing is still our job and mission today,” he said.

Vice President of Operations for Project Development for the CDB, Issac Solomon, commented on the relationship the CDB has had with Belize as one of its founding members.

“CDB has been and remains a long-term partner of the government and people of Belize as they try to achieve their development objective. Belize is a founding member of the bank and 2022 marks the fifty-second year of operations. Since its inception, CDB has provided funding resources to Belize for improving agriculture, tourism, water and sanitation, electricity,

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- Ability to plan and prioritize
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**Roles and Responsibilities:**

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- Process enrollments of new hires
- Request and submit monthly payments to regulatory bodies for statutory deductions
- Prepare monthly reconciliations of payroll-related General Ledger accounts
- File and maintain employment records
- Assist in the preparation of the annual payroll and fringe benefits budgets
- Reconcile and prepare year-end tax reports for submission to the Income Tax Department
- Provide support to the Treasury and Payroll Manager in other payroll and fringe benefit related processes
- Assure confidentiality and security of records and information

**Letter of application accompanied by a Resume, Police Record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:**

Human Resources Manager  
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk  
Or email  
HR.Belize@asr-group.com

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 27, 2022.**





## Generosos obsequios de AMLO y el pueblo mexicano

No hay nada nuevo en que México llene a Belize de regalos, por lo que no fue una sorpresa cuando, en una visita de estado a Belize el sábado, el presidente de México, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (llamado AMLO), derramó amor. México es nuestro buen vecino; ellos fueron los primeros en establecer relaciones diplomáticas con nosotros cuando nos convertimos en una nación independiente en 1981.

Después de la visita, el PM Briceño anunció que el presidente de México nos prometió tres nuevas escuelas secundarias vocacionales, similares a la que nos dieron en 1983, la Escuela Secundaria Técnica México en San Román. Asimismo, el Ministro de Agricultura, el Honorable José Mai, dijo que muy pronto dos mil pequeños agricultores beliceños estarán recibiendo asistencia financiera y técnica de México en el transcurso de cuatro meses.

El regalo más grande de todos fue el levantamiento de aranceles a los productos agrícolas de nuestro país. Somos un país pequeño con un mercado local pequeño. Es una regla económica que cuanto mayor sea el número de consumidores, menor será el costo de los bienes, y cuanto menor sea el número de consumidores, mayor será el costo de los bienes. Con los aranceles eliminados, nuestros productos agrícolas han encontrado un mercado de más de 120 millones de personas con las condiciones más favorables.

Es casi demasiado bueno para ser verdad. Se remonta a los días en que los países que forman la Unión Europea daban un trato preferencial a nuestra azúcar y bananos. No nos podrían condenar si nos pellizcáramos un poco, porque los países no tienen por costumbre regalar sus negocios.

No debemos preocuparnos de que nuestro vecino ponga en peligro su economía de alguna manera con esta generosidad. Comparado con México, Belize es un país pequeño. Su población es aproximadamente 300 veces mayor que la nuestra, por lo que incluso si nuestros agricultores fueran competitivos con los suyos, no podríamos causar mucho daño. Nuestros agricultores no son competitivos con los suyos. México es un país tanto templado como tropical y todo lo que podemos hacer en agricultura, ellos lo pueden hacer mejor. Además de su ventaja natural, los agricultores mexicanos, al igual que los agricultores estadounidenses, están fuertemente subsidiados. Los agricultores de Belize no reciben mucho apoyo financiero de nuestro gobierno.

Debemos hacer todos los esfuerzos posibles para sacar provecho de que nuestro vecino literalmente nos está abriendo las puertas. El PM Briceño señaló que Quintana Roo, la región de México más cercana a Belize, no es grande en agricultura, por lo que hay mucho potencial allí para nuestros agricultores, particularmente para nuestros productores de arroz, frijoles, maíz, ganado, camarones y pescado. Ojalá tenga razón. Existe un enorme diferencial comercial entre México y Belize. Los informes de comercio mundial dicen que compramos US\$ 133 millones en bienes de México en 2020, mientras que ellos solo nos compraron US\$ 12,4 millones en bienes.

La producción ganadera es casi la única área en la que estamos cerca de competir con los mexicanos, y eso es porque es la agroindustria que menos depende de los insumos extranjeros. El ganado come pasto y legumbres. En Belize crecen muchas hierbas y legumbres.

Desde que llegó al poder en noviembre de 2020, el gobierno PUP ha estado presionando para hacer más negocios con México, y logró una especie de avance con la exportación de ganado en pie. Había exceso de ganado en los ranchos y el nuevo gobierno hizo que los animales se trasladaran a Guatemala y México. El gobierno anterior ha denunciado que el nuevo gobierno promovió un comercio que no era del todo sobre la mesa, y que siguiendo el proceso que habían establecido eventualmente habría arrojado resultados similares.

Las oportunidades son excelentes para la carne de res de Belize, pero antes de que nos entusiasmemos demasiado con el incentivo de aranceles cero, debe establecerse un grupo de expertos, pensamiento que debe implementarse ahora, para decidir cuánto más de nuestro bosque daremos para criar vacas. Hemos visto cuánto daño le ha hecho al corredor del jaguar el nuevo ingenio azucarero de Cayo.

Belize no es el único país que visitó el presidente mexicano la semana pasada. Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador también fueron escalas importantes de AMLO, en un viaje que, según la prensa extranjera, tenía como objetivo abrir discusiones e iniciar programas para aliviar las dificultades económicas de nuestra región. Las presiones provocadas por los huracanes y las sequías y el Covid-19 han exacerbado la pobreza en Centroamérica, y en los últimos años caravanas de indigentes se han abierto camino a través de México, para llegar a Estados Unidos. Miles se han enfrentado a la dura resistencia estadounidense en el Río Grande, y esto ha llevado a numerosas crisis humanitarias en México. El sábado, AMLO elogió al gobierno y al pueblo de Belize por nuestro programa de amnistía que regularizará a más de 40.000 personas, la mayoría de ellos centroamericanos.

En un esfuerzo por estimular las economías devastadas de la región, el gobierno de EE.UU. ha comprometido más de US\$ 1.200 millones para el sector privado de América Central. Estados Unidos es una nación grande y generosa, con defectos. AMLO también visitó Cuba, donde hizo un llamado a Estados Unidos para que levante su asfixiante embargo económico de seis décadas sobre esa nación, y México ha amenazado con boicotear la IX Cumbre de las Américas, que se convocará en junio. El primer ministro Briceño, actual presidente de la Comunidad del Caribe, dice que el grupo insiste en que Cuba y Venezuela también reciban invitaciones a la cumbre.

México está impulsando el libre comercio como una solución práctica a los problemas económicos de la región, y la eliminación de los aranceles sobre las exportaciones agrícolas de Belize podría ser un incentivo para subírnos a bordo. En febrero, la Oficina de Prensa de Belize anunció que el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Exterior e Inmigración, el Honorable Eamon Courtenay había estado trabajando con sus contrapartes en México para formalizar un acuerdo que sería "vital para el desarrollo económico de Belize, incluido el crecimiento de las exportaciones a México". El *Reporter* proempresarial, en su editorial de la semana pasada, afirmó que en las negociaciones con nuestro país, México "dejó en claro que prefiere un tratado de libre comercio en lugar de un acuerdo de alcance parcial que cubra artículos específicos".

El *Reporter* señaló una serie de aspectos positivos que traería el libre comercio con México y dijo que si bien puede ser estresante, si somos ingeniosos y hacemos bien nuestra tarea, ¡es "eminente factible!" Tomará un poco de convencimiento para hacernos ver cómo el libre comercio con México podría beneficiar a Belize. En agricultura, México puede hacer todo mejor que nosotros, y su superioridad se magnifica en casi todos los demás negocios, excepto en el turismo. Es posible que no podamos ir más allá de aceptar este regalo de cero aranceles de nuestro vecino.

Belize tiene su parte de bendiciones. Nuestro país es uno de los más bellos del planeta; la democracia está viva y coleando en nuestra tierra; nuestra gente nunca ha perdido la esperanza de que vendrán tiempos económicos mejores, y mientras nuestro vecino del oeste y del sur ha sido agresivo con nosotros, al norte inmediato de nosotros yace un vecino que compensa con creces el estrés causado por el que reclama nuestro territorio. El sábado volvió a cumplir para nosotros nuestro vecino del norte.



# Livestock producers “elated” at waived cattle import duty

**Mexico’s decision to waive the 15% tariff on all cattle imported from Belize will allow the country’s livestock industry to grow tremendously, says the BLPA.**



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 11, 2022

The Belize Livestock Producers Association (BLPA) has expressed elation in response to Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s recent decision to waive the 15% import duty on all cattle being exported from Belize to Mexico. According to the association, as a result of the groundbreaking decision, the cattle industry will now be able to grow “leaps and bounds” as livestock producers continue to experience “times like never before”. The BLPA also noted that local cattle farmers will now be able to further maximize their revenues.

“With the decision to waive the 15% tariff and the efforts by Belizean government officials to streamline the export process and reduce the costs, especially for physical cattle inspection by the Mexican veterinarians, it is expected that the price offered to Belizean cattle farmers will increase in the short run,” wrote the BLPA in a press release issued on Tuesday.

The announcement was made on Saturday, May 7, during President López Obrador’s brief visit to Belize. Before departing the country, the Obrador gave a statement to the media at the Laing Building in Belize City.

“We have just made an agreement with the Prime Minister that Mexico will remove import duties on products that Belize can export to our country,” he said, further explaining that those agricultural products would include cattle.

In his message, President Obrador also spoke of the importance of Central American countries uniting as a region in order to build economic strength.

“Only in this way, a united, integrated, twinned America, will we be able to face the turbulence of the world economy and, most importantly, the geopolitical danger that the economic decline of the United States represents for the entire world compared to other regions, especially Asia,” he stated.

“We are going to bring true free trade between our nations,” he added.

The Belize Livestock Producers

Association has called the decision made by President Lopez Obrador a strategic one, adding that it resulted from continuous lobbying efforts by the Government of Belize in collaboration with the BLPA, led by the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, Honorable Jose Abelardo Mai, alongside the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Honorable Eamon Courtenay, and the Prime Minister of Belize.

Prime Minister John Briceno also spoke with local media about the tariff break being given to local cattle farmers, expounding on the work that went into reaching the historic agreement.

“It’s very historic what took place on Saturday. You may remember, when we were in Government between 1998 under Said Musa to 2008 we worked very hard to get rice into Mexico. Prime Minister Musa at that time met with the then President, we met with the Foreign Minister, we met with the Ministers of trade and we did everything—we spent a lot of money, government, trying to get the Blue Creek rice. But they have a very, the bureaucracy and the lobby that they had in Mexico was too strong for us to break through,” he stated.

The Prime Minister, who commented that he has always seen the value in having Mexico—with a population of over 125 million—as a trading partner, says they had a trade meeting with President Obrador last year which proved fruitful and led to the recent breakthrough.

“At that meeting, actually, we were in a tent, just himself, his Foreign Minister, myself, our Foreign Minister Eamon Courtenay, and both ambassadors. We should have been in a twenty-minute meeting; we ended up spending more than an hour. So, I was talking to him about Belize and what we are doing, that if we can remove these taxes it will create great opportunities for us,” said Briceño.

And when President Obrador and Prime Minister Briceno met a second time, they spoke even further, particularly about Belize’s amnesty

Please turn to **Page 27**



## VACANCY NOTICE

### OMBUDSMAN

Applications are invited from suitable qualified persons to fill the vacant position of **OMBUDSMAN**.

Under section 3 of the Ombudsman Act, Chapter 5 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, the Ombudsman is a Parliamentary Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the recommendations of both Houses of the National Assembly contained in resolutions passed in that behalf. The Office of the Ombudsman is not deemed to be an office in the public service.

#### Functions

The main functions of the Ombudsman are the following: -

- (a) To investigate complaints received from the public under the Ombudsman Act about the administrative acts and decisions of the Central Government departments (including the Belize Police Department), local authorities, and other public statutory bodies and State-owned enterprises, involving official corruption or other wrongdoing;
- (b) To make recommendations to the competent authorities for appropriate action against the person (s) responsible, where there is evidence of a breach of duty, or misconduct or the commission of a criminal offence;
- (c) To review the decisions of the authorities in accordance with Part V of the Freedom of Information Act, where access to a document has been refused by a Government Department, or other prescribed authority;
- (d) To perform all other functions assigned to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act or any other law.

#### Minimum Qualifications and Skills

The candidates should possess the following qualifications and skills: -

- (a) Bachelor’s degree in law, business or public administration or other related discipline;
- (b) Experience in complaint investigation and resolution in the public sector;
- (c) Ability to deal with persons from a wide variety of backgrounds and to maintain an objective understating of different perspectives;
- (d) Professional demeanour and impeccable credentials;
- (e) A thorough knowledge of the Ombudsman Act of Belize and the procedure prescribed therein for the investigation of complaints;
- (f) If possible, familiarity with the workings of Ombudsman in other jurisdictions.

The Ombudsman must be non-partisan and a person of integrity and high national standing.

#### Disqualifications

Under section 5 of the Ombudsman Act, no person is qualified for appointment as Ombudsman if he (a) is a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or (b) is a member of a local authority; or (c) is an undischarged bankrupt; or (d) has at any time been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.

#### Age Limit

Candidates should be between 30 and 62 years of age.

#### Salary

Subject to negotiation and subsequent confirmation by the National Assembly.

#### Deadline for applications

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications and experience should submit their applications to the **Clerk, National Assembly, Belmopan**, no later than **31<sup>st</sup> May 2022**.

\*\*\*\*



# Belize shows appreciation for its nurses

*May 6 to May 12 was celebrated as Nurses Week, ending on International Nurses Day*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Thursday, May 12, observed as International Nurses Day, marked the conclusion of Nurses Week in Belize, which commenced on May 6 and saw some of the country's most invaluable frontline workers appreciated and celebrated. The theme for this year's Nurse Week was "Nurses: A Voice to Lead—Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to Secure Global Health".

On the final day of Nurses Week, the Ministry of Health and Wellness shared a special message from the Ministry's Chief Nursing Officer, Lizett Bell.

"Investing in nursing has become critical to the productivity of any healthcare system and to the wider sustainable economic development of a country. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that nurses play a significant role in healthcare, and

without them accessibility to quality care can be jeopardized. We must recognize the nurses' efforts and their heroic commitment to the people of this country. Many were tired, overworked, underpaid, and managing their own personal issues, yet they showed up to work to provide care for those in need," she stated, adding that nurses are the heart and the backbone of the healthcare system.

Bell also highlighted the fact that this past fiscal year, the Ministry of Health & Wellness invested heavily in nursing education by granting scholarship opportunities and certificates in practical nursing and specialization in midwifery.

"Nurses are superheroes, and we see you glow every day. We are there for you, and we acknowledge your efforts. But special thanks to you for your



*Nurses Week via Belize Central Health Region*

services to your communities on this, your Nurses Day," she concluded.

During this year's Nurses Week, a

host of activities were held at various hospitals and clinics around the country, including at Belize City's Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH).

One activity hosted by the KMH this past week was its "Nursing is Reel" campaign, which featured TikTok videos that were filmed by nurses to highlight the lighter moments on the job—moments that are just a bit more frequent now in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic's peak. There were video submissions from wards across the hospital, including Accident & Emergency, the Maternity Ward, and the Medical Ward.

Other events by the KMH included a flameless cookout competition, a relaxation spa day by the hospital's Physiotherapy Department, appearances on various talk shows by Maternity, Emergency, and COVID Ward nurses, and the renaming of the KMH's Nursing Supervisor's Office, which is now known as the Pearlita Spain Nursing Supervisor's Office.

The week's celebrations also included a walkathon in San Ignacio and Santa Elena, church services, raffles and scavenger hunts by the Nurses and Midwives Council of Belize, a Nursing Conference, and more.

The date May 12 was chosen as International Nurses Day to commemorate the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Nightingale, born in 1820, was a British nurse regarded as the founder of modern nursing. She is also known as "The Lady with the Lamp" due to the fact that she often wandered the wards at night tending to patients with a lamp in her hand. Nightingale frequently emphasized the need for proper sanitary conditions in medical environments in order to ensure the quick recovery of patients.

The observation of International Nurses Day serves to highlight the vital and often life-saving work carried out by nurses across the globe.



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INVITATION TO BID

HOTMIX PAVING OF A 4000 L.F x 23 L.F SECTION OF SAN ESTEVAN VILLAGE ROAD,  
SAN ESTEVAN VILLAGE, ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to pave with Hotmix section of a 4000 linear feet of San Estevan Village Road, in San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for Hotmix Paving of the above-mentioned section of road in San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District.

The scope of works will involve rehabilitating a total of 4000 linear ft (12000 square yards) of Roadway with Hotmix paving (HMA) and will include the following:

1. Clean main road of all vegetation and deleterious materials and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
2. Clean open channels / drains – 9000 linear feet and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
3. Drainage improvement works (Provisional item)
3. Scarify, shape and compact road surface (12,000 S.Y) as per crossfall on drawings.
4. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of crushed All-In as per specifications.
5. Supply all equipment, materials and labour to apply 40 mm of approved Hotmix Asphalt covering a total street surface area of 12,000 S.Y.
6. Construction of Side Walks – 1000 L.F (Provisional Item)

Bidders who are interested must have the necessary equipment and technical expertise and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday May 13, 2022 during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10.00 AM local time on May 30, 2022 and they will be opened on the same day at 10.15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espat  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing  
#1 Power Lane  
Belmopan, Belize  
Tel: 501-822-2136/39  
Fax: 501-822-3282  
E-mail: [ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz](mailto:ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz)

2. Lennox Bradley  
Chief Engineer  
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing  
#1 Power Lane  
Belmopan, Belize  
Tel: 501-822-2136/39  
Fax: 501-822-3282  
E-mail: [chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz](mailto:chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz)



**Call us at:**  
**280-4703**



# Sorry to disappoint

by Colin Hyde

There are two obvious reasons why people who want to escape punishment grab on to DESTINY for dear life. One, it is a great help in a calamity to say, well, it could not have been helped, it was to be, man who fu heng wahn heng; and two, we can pass off the things we are ashamed of, to avoid responsibility for our failures.

Take a deep breath. There's no such thing as destiny. What we write on our page today, someone might have written on their page a thousand years ago, but their page is their page, your page is your page, and my page is my page. DESTINY is just a word. We are not living in a movie; our failures are not a done deal. There is too much logic in this world in which we live for that. Life is mysterious, not pointless.

Regular readers of this column might remember this exchange between me and my acquaintance, Mr. Bacchus. I met Mr. Bacchus at Tiger Sandy Bay Farms, and I call him an acquaintance because we never got a chance to become friends, or enemies. Mr. Bacchus had a lot of depth, and I am always eager to learn, and to challenge. I forget what terrible tragic human failure he spoke about, but I remember I said, jokingly: "then one would have to lie to one's self". And Mr. Bacchus replied: "if one can".

Ah, destiny. Forgiveness begged if I

disappointed you. I'm only after establishing that it wasn't our DESTINY to wreck our tranquil haven. When we get past that, we can start looking at what we can do to help return this little part of the world in which we live, to glory.

## Greg didn't miss the boat

Can the long arm of the CCJ reach us all the way over here? I know you can't kos if you disagree with a local judge, but way over there in Barbados or Jamaica or wherever the CCJ sits, if they wanted to give you the sense, they, ehm, can't get over here by boat so quickly, and two months from now it's a 6-month break, because only a fool would dare sail across during the hurricane season. We all know that Columbus was some lucky beast. When he was shipwrecked, the islanders befriended him. How he "reciprocated" is the definition of ingratitude.

Krem News said a judge at the CCJ —notice I didn't call his name, ha, ha —in essence told SATIIM that they missed the boat on the Maya Lands Rights case. But if I remember correctly, Greg was upfront at the case. Greg was SATIIM then, and if the name of his organization wasn't there, that was simple oversight.

I'll tell you a little story. This is for the Mayan brothers and sisters who have decided they don't want Greg. It's not

nice to be unfair. You see how many people of European stock won't acknowledge white privilege? They are either simple or dishonest. No, no, that's not the story in this case. The story in this case is really about different views on implementing a noble vision.

Look, all Belize knows that Greg is more than 100% legitimate! It's okay to disagree with his views. But excuse me, no, I don't buy that it's okay to say he missed the boat. Some are trying to push him off.

Whoa there, allow me please to sneak this in. My, that was some seeryas "indyan" that Fonso of *Wave Fus Ting Da Mawnin* spoke about on Wednesday. What, controlling all our flour? I hope dem PUP aren't getting back into encouraging racketeering. Anybody remember a story about a leopard and his spots?

## We need to up our traffic game

"Sixty-one people died due to road traffic injuries during 2007, 338 were hospitalized, and 565 people were estimated to be slightly injured. A total of 2,501 years of potential life were lost in Belize due to premature death, with a total economic cost of US\$11,062,544. This figure represents 0.9% of the Belize gross domestic product. Direct cost was estimated at US\$163,503, of which 2.4% was spent on fatalities, 46.7% on the severely injured, and 50.9% on the slightly injured."

The above is an excerpt from the report, "Economic impact of fatal and nonfatal road traffic injuries in Belize in 2007", which was done by Ricardo Pérez-Núñez, Martha Híjar-Medina, Ileana Heredia-Pi, Sandra Jones, and Eugênia Maria Silveira-Rodrigues.

Some Belizean leader said that our people are our nation's number one resource, but those are just words. If they were more than words, our leadership would exert itself a lot more to drastically reduce loss of lives and serious injuries caused by reckless driving. Of course, the Transport Department has done a lot of work to improve the safety of road users, but the numbers emphatically say, not enough. It is absolutely horrific, the casualties on our highways. It's obvious that we have to step up our game.

The Transport Department has to start churning out more numbers. We have hundreds of tertiary students who, judging from the number of research papers they share with us, must be doing foreigners' business. Really, there's the barest of data in the marketplace. And

we need data in the worst way.

The makers of cars and trucks do big studies on their vehicles. Regular experts go over all their claims to see how accurate they are on things such as miles to the gallon of fuel, acceleration rate, and comfort, so that drivers aren't hoodwinked. Safety experts run the fine-toothed comb through all the safety features, and rate the vehicles on how they perform in head-on collisions, rollovers, and so on.

Without much effort, regular folk should be able to find out what types of motorbikes are most likely to be in an accident, find out background information on the individuals who are most likely to get into accidents on motorbikes, find out what time accidents are most likely to occur. It mightn't mean much, what types of motorbikes get in the most accidents, but again, there might be a critical tale there.

Everyone knows we have to kill speeding. The primary aim of the Transport Department must be to DESTROY it. When you go to war, go to win. The first visit to make is to the PM's office. All leadership begins at the top. The Transport Department has to get him to commit to the effort to DESTROY speeding. It's no easy task. Those ones who sit on or behind the heavy, high-powered engines are challenged to rein in their steeds. But those ones who push their light, low-powered machines to the max might be in the most danger.

I notice the buses carrying tourists from Guatemala always come through the village where I live at respectable speed. But at home we have some speed hounds. Crazy car and truck drivers are getting away with madness. Between Roaring Creek and Santa Elena there must be about 15 raised crossings, almost one per mile. On an average day several thousand drivers use that stretch of road. Only about 15 of them are idiots. Ground those 15 idiots, and we don't need 15 raised crossings. Belize is a country where a few idiots cause thousands to suffer.

Accidents will happen, but the frequency and severity of accidents in Belize say we are not a very careful or caring people. The number of accidents shows we are losing this road safety race badly. In the research cited in the first paragraph, we see the crazy financial cost of traffic accidents. That alone should make us work harder. When we add in the terrible grief, we must realize that we need an all-out, a total war to stop the carnage.

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## Executive Secretary

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Submit queries to [vacancies@salient.bz](mailto:vacancies@salient.bz).

**DEADLINE FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022**

## Sunday Review

### News Review Talk Show

**Host:** YaYa Marin Coleman

**Date:** Sunday, 15 May, 2022 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

**Guest:** Breadah Kojo Asare Bonsu from the Global Afrikan People's Parliament (GAPP).

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, 2022



# PRESS PREDICTIONS

## The sports psychic speaks

### BOLEDO

Press Predictions, 25 – 38 -12  
Boledo Stats Thru May 13 TO 20, 2022

In boledo news, 33 finally played after a very long time. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 25 – 38 – 12 – 06 – 54 – 86. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 6208 – 3581 – 7248. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 840 – 537 – 296 – 278 – 013 – 964. Get ready Belize, a lot of money will be coming our way. 55 refuses to play since October 14, 2020. That's over one year, six months, three weeks and 5 days. Now, 26 is still out since last year, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. That's over one year, three months, two weeks and four days. Now, 03 is still out since February 12, 2021. That's exactly over one year and three months. Then 47 and 38 joined those hard numbers out over one year now. 12 is still out since last year, April 22. That's over one year, two weeks and six days. Now the thirty series had not played for fifty four days, now played three times in six days. 39 played three times already. 57, 02 and 68 played some four times now. 22 played five times, the most right now. The hottest two ending balls are the two ball and 9 ball. There are the only two doubles left for the year to play,

00 and 55. Keep your eyes open for 12 and 38. Those two numbers are out, which is very rare of them. The teens have not played for over five weeks now. Remember to read your Psalms: 91 – 92 – 62 -63. Good luck to all buyers, next week, more lucky numbers.

### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**Boston Celtics will win in 7 games against Milwaukee, the champions**



Klay Thompson

**NBA Playoffs Results and Predictions**

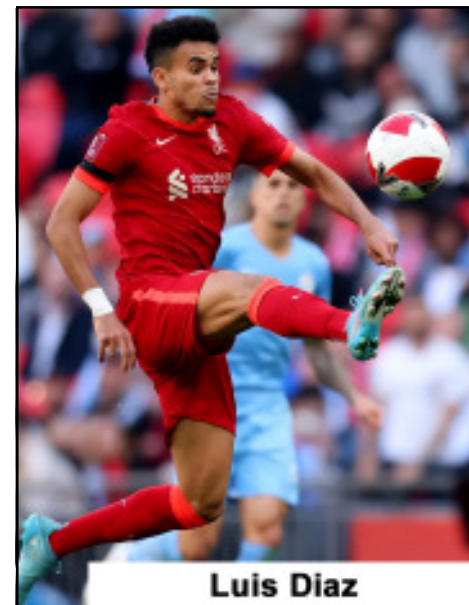
In NBA playoffs action, the Golden

State Warriors will beat Memphis Grizzlies in six games. Steph Curry and Klay Thompson have too much fire power for Ja Morant and the Grizzlies. Then the Phoenix Suns will beat the Dallas Mavericks in seven games. Luka Donic leads the playoffs all the time with an average of 33.5 points a game. He passes Michael Jordan 33.4 points a game in the playoffs. Then in the East, the Miami Heat will edge the Philadelphia 76ers in seven hard games. Also, Joel Embiid and James Harden will put up a very huge fight. Jimmy Butler has a better bench. Tyler Herro will be the difference alongside Victor Oladipo. In the most exciting series, the Boston Celtics will still prevail in the seven hard games. Jason Tatum and Jaylen Brown will get over the hurdle. Giannis Antetokounmpo will miss Middleton in that series. More predictions next week!

### INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

**Real Madrid vs Liverpool in 2 weeks**

**International Football Results, Predictions**



Luis Diaz

In international football, the UEFA Champion of Champions League, Liverpool beat Villarreal 3 to 2 in game two. So they won the two games on aggregate 5 to 2. Sadio Mané scored again, alongside Luis



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

Diaz, the Colombian. Then in the other semi final game, Real Madrid rallied to win the game, 2 to 1. Karim Benzema converted a penalty in overtime for the win. So, Real Madrid won on aggregate 6 to 5. Next two weeks, the finals will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

In the EPL, Manchester City is still on top by one point over Liverpool, 86 to 85, with three games remaining. Chelsea is at the third spot. Arsenal and Tottenham are not far behind. Mohamed Salah will win the Golden Boot for most goals. In La Liga, Real Madrid won already. They captured their 34<sup>th</sup> La Liga title. FC Barcelona won 26 titles. Benzema won the most goals in the La Liga and in Champions League. More predictions on the finals next week!

### INTERNATIONAL BOXING

**Dmitry Bivol upset Canelo Alvarez, by decision**

**International Boxing Results, Predictions**

In international boxing action, Pay Per View had Saul "Canelo" Alvarez and Dmitry Bivol 20 -0- 15 KO. Bivol won on all three judges' score cards. Bivol is a full fledged light heavyweight fighter. Alvarez had to meet that weight. Bivol threw much more punches than Canelo - he wants a rematch. Canelo Alvarez has not lost a fight in fifteen years. The Russian was too strong for him. There are some mega fights on the horizon. Devin Haney says that he is the best lightweight fighter in the world. He says that division is the most exciting in boxing. Gervonta Davis and Floyd "Money" Mayweather have fallen out. ESPN, now has boxing on Friday nights. More stats next week!

### PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

**Gabourel Lane & Comet Street, Belama Phase 4, Belize City**

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo & Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the below described properties. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at the times listed on the website.

**1. Parcel No. 1081 Gabourel Lane, Belize City**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Fort George/Pickstock	45	1081

(Being a 2 1/2 storey concrete/timber dwelling house containing Ground Floor - 2 one bedroom/bathroom apartment; First Floor - 3 bedrooms + mini office + 1 1/2 bathrooms + kitchen; Attic - small conference room TOGETHER with fenced lot [268.330 S.M.] situate on Gabourel Lane, Belize City, the freehold property of Mrs. Sandra Mahler Miguel and Mr. Wilhem Miguel guarantor for Messrs. Bel-Caribe Communications Limited)

**2. Parcel No. 3171 Comet Street, Belama Phase 3, Belize City:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caribbean Shores/Belize	16	3171

(Being an L-shaped concrete bungalow dwelling house 21 ft. X 30 ft. + 14 ft. X 18 ft. (inclusive of 5 ft. X 14 ft. porch) containing 3 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + kitchen + dining area + living room + small laundry TOGETHER with lot [338.962 S.M.] situate on Comet Street, Belama Phase 3, the freehold property of Mr. Raymond Troy Garcia, deceased.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - [www.belizebank.com](http://www.belizebank.com) (foreclosure listing)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH  
KEVIN A. CASTILLO  
CHRISTIANA R. CASTILLO  
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: [www.belizepropertyauctions.com](http://www.belizepropertyauctions.com)  
E-mail: [kevinacs@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacs@yahoo.com)  
Face Book: Belize Auctions

### PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

**Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District**

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the below described property. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 10:00 am.

**Parcel No. 376 Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District**

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District and being lot number 376 and shown on Plan 1887 (2 of 2) containing 555.6 square yards and recorded at the Land Titles unit, Belmopan TOGETHER with all buildings and erections thereon. (Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house containing [three bedrooms + two bathrooms + laundry room + semi-enclosed garage] and lot 555.60 S.Y. situate on Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Mr. Juan Omar Coc and Ms. Melonie Coc)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH  
KEVIN A. CASTILLO  
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)  
E-mail: [kevinacs@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacs@yahoo.com)  
Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)  
Face Book: Belize Auctions



# INDIGENOUS MAYA AND GARIFUNA CAN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

by Wellington C. Ramos, Adjunct Professor of History and Political Science



UNESCO actions on engaging with indigenous peoples address the following paragraphs, inter alia, of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):

Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources;

Acknowledging that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the Vienna

Declaration and Programme of Action, affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

Emphasizing that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples;

Believing that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field:

Article 41

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the

provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established. Article 42

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

They have the fundamental legal right to: formulate their own constitution, conduct their own elections, choose how they want to be represented, who they want to represent them from among their own people and set up their own form of government to govern their territories in these countries. The reason for this is because prior to these people being colonized by the European countries, mainly Spain, France and Great Britain, they were nation states governing themselves.

Colonization by these European countries led to the destruction of their nation states and forced subjugation by their colonizers. After colonization came independence, but these countries continue to suppress indigenous peoples' rights with Neocolonialists who were educated by their colonial masters.

Little do many of the local elected representatives realize that the system they pledge to uphold, is not to their people's benefit and advantage but that of the colonial nations. Most of the countries who claim that they are independent are not, because they do not have the resources to govern themselves. They still depend on their former colonial master or other countries, to provide them with financial assistance and their citizens living in the United States to send remittances to their families back to their homelands to survive. Below is recent data that was obtained from the World Bank:

In Belize and all the countries where the Garifuna and Maya people live, everything is controlled by the central governments. These governments impose their laws at will on the Garifuna and Maya people without their free, prior and informed consent. If the Garifuna and Maya people disobey the laws of these countries, they subject themselves to being detained, arrested, kidnapped, imprisoned or even being killed. The people who are targeted the most are the Garifuna and Maya leaders who are advocating for their peoples' rights. These governments have signed treaties and conventions to respect and grant these indigenous Garifuna and Maya people their rights but have failed to enforce them. Two of the biggest rights that are constantly being violated are human rights and land rights. Below are pictures of a Garifuna leader and a Maya leader who were killed by their governments for advocating on their people's behalf:

The Garifuna and Maya people must adopt their own constitutions and charters, to govern their people and lands in the countries where they live. They must follow up by electing their own representatives to govern their territories

Under International Law, the UN Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), treaties, conventions, charters, constitutions and other legal covenants, indigenous peoples like the Garifuna and Maya people who live in Belize and other countries do not have to participate in their countries' elections if they choose not to. Below is a copy of the UNDRIP on the Rights of Indigenous peoples:

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

## PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES Sapphire Beach, Ambergris Caye, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Alpha Gamma Financial Services Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the below described properties. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the time shown on the website:

### 1. 12.575 Acres Sapphire Beach, Ambergris Caye



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
San Pedro	7	8150

(Being the following improvements: Building No. 1 – Incomplete concrete and blocks structure 1760 sq. ft. + Building No. 2 – timber and plywood building 192 sq. ft. + Building No. 3 – 2 storey concrete building 417 sq. ft. TOGETHER with 12.575 acres of land situate at Sapphire Beach, Ambergris Caye, the freehold property of Messrs. Land Trust Limited)

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
San Pedro	7	10795 (H12) (H13) (H14) (H 15) (H16)

(Being incomplete concrete buildings held under strata titles on **SEAFRONT** Parcel No. 10795 situate at **Sapphire Beach, Ambergris Caye**, the freehold properties of Messrs. Land Trust Limited)

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**  
**KEVIN A. CASTILLO**  
**TELEPHONE 223-4488**  
 Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)  
 E-mail: [belizeauctionsales@gmail.com](mailto:belizeauctionsales@gmail.com)  
 Face Book: Belize Auctions



## A second man convicted for Reuben Perez's murder

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

On Wednesday, two months after the sentencing of Tyrone Reid, who pleaded guilty in March of this year to the 2015 murder of Reuben Perez, the 47-year-old owner of Perez Hardware who was shot inside his establishment, Reid's accomplice, Keon Dennison, was also found guilty of murder.

Dennison, who was 18 years old at the time of the incident and who will be sentenced on June 16, had unlike Reid, not pleaded guilty to the crime and had chosen to go to trial. Nonetheless, he was convicted of murder in the Belize City Supreme Court chambers of Justice Ricardo Sandcroft, who indicated in his 50-page judgment that the Crown had proven the case without a shadow of a doubt, due to eyewitness testimony as well as surveillance footage of the incident that showed him at the scene of the robbery-turned-murder. In addition, a caution statement had been admitted into evidence against him.

Also, although Reid, who was sentenced to 31 years in prison, was seen pulling the trigger on surveillance footage, the same footage showed Dennison going back to the scene of the shooting to steal the dead victim's cell phone.

This ruling is the first guilty verdict handed down by Justice Sandcroft since he joined the Supreme Court bench. Mitigation pleas will be heard on June 16 on behalf of Dennison, whose Supreme Court murder bail has been revoked following this conviction.

## Groundbreaking held for Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project

*Continued from* Page 7

transportation, housing, health, education, and citizen security. While the bank has had an impact on many sectors in Belize, a lot of our support has involved road infrastructure improvements. Since 1996, when we approved our first capital investment in the sector, we have provided approximately 330 million Belize dollars in loans and grant financing," he said.

Over 55,000 individuals traverse the Philip Goldson Highway daily and will benefit from improved safety when the upgrade, which is projected to reach completion in late 2023, is done, and it is expected that the upgrade will generate increased economic activity for the 45,000 residents of Corozal, Orange Walk, and other northern communities.

## INDIGENOUS MAYA AND GARIFUNA CAN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

*Continued from* Page 13

and lands with autonomy and jurisdiction over them.

Currently, the governments in these countries where they live continue to



*A picture of one of the five Garifuna leaders who were kidnapped in Triunfo De La Cruz, Honduras who are still missing and presumed dead, Alberth Sneider Centeno*

encroach upon their lands, imposing the collection of taxes from them and sending little or no revenues back to spend in their villages or towns. In the case of Belize, there is not even one elected Garifuna person in the House of Representatives, so taxation without representation is undemocratic.

Plus, they exercise control in the taking of the Garifuna and Maya lands and sometimes with the consent and collaboration of their elected representatives, through the central and local government system. The political systems in these countries do not operate to benefit the Garifuna and Maya people. What it does is to continue supporting the ongoing

violations of their human, land and other fundamental rights that the Garifuna and Maya people possess.

It is now time for the Garifuna and Maya people to exercise their rights and to stop waiting on their governments to grant them rights they have possessed for centuries before their territories were colonized and neo-colonized by the Spanish, French and British.



*A picture of a Maya leader fighting for his People's Rights in Guatemala who was killed by the name of Juan De Eon Tuyic Velasquez*

## B&B BEVERAGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 12, 2022

### BELIZE BREWING COMPANY EXPANDS EXPORT AGREEMENTS

*Creating opportunities for Belize*

The Belize Brewing Company has begun exporting to the Caribbean. With long-term agreements in place, it produces, bottles, and exports various beverages for multiple companies across the region. These agreements provide a valuable source of foreign currency income for Belize.

Belize Brewing Company's export agreements are with Caribbean companies and multinational corporations. These businesses consider Belize Brewing Company a trusted partner, capable of delivering high-quality products for their respective brands and markets. Additionally, there are ongoing conversations with existing and new customers, which will expand the export volumes.

The beverages for export only include Endura Malt and 24K Premium Lager, Stout, and Light Brews, while LandShark and Smirnoff Ice are produced for both the local and export markets.

Through these strategic relationships, Belize Brewing Company is expanding local production capabilities and creating efficiencies, focusing on the long-term growth of Belize's export market. The Company remains focused on its mission of "Pursuing Excellence for a Stronger Belize."

###

*The Belize Brewing Company is a Bowen & Bowen Company. Founded in 1969, it introduced Belikin, the first Belizean beer. Family-owned for over a half-century, Belikin Beer has become a touchstone of Belizean cultural identity. Belize Brewing Company produces and/or markets a range of local and international brands, including other alcohol beverages.*

Media Contact: Rosanna Villanueva, Corporate Relations Manager  
C: +501-610-1973; E: rvillanueva@bowen.bz





## Belize Water Services

### Public Notice

#### **BWSL ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEEDING SUBMISSION**

On May 3, 2022, Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) made its submission to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), following its announcement that it intended to request a review of the Decision made in its 2019|2020 Full Tariff Review Proceeding, based on Exceptional Circumstances as defined in the Public Utilities Commission Act.

If approved by the PUC, it would provide for additional funding for much needed improvement to the safety and reliability of Belize's water and sanitation systems and for the protection of the most vulnerable customers.

In 2019, BWSL submitted a Full Five-Year Business Plan (FFBP) for the current FTP to the PUC as part of the regulated review requirement for the FTP review. The business plan included a financial model and projections based on planned future activity and the expected financial results. That submission was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In consideration of the financial hardships faced by our customers, particularly small businesses and residential consumers, BWS is proposing a minimal rate increase, in some cases, in order to make the necessary capital investments to expand its operations and maintain the usual customer service levels.

During the remainder of the FTP, BWS is planning to expend approximately BZD \$95 million of capital improvements including sewer collection and treatment systems, water expansion projects, water supply projects, meter replacement, capital renewal and replacement, and similar projects. These projects are funded from a blend of tariff revenue, available reserves, additional debt, and Government of Belize (GOB) assistance.

The new submission proposes, among other things, to implement a rate structure that will differentiate between residential and non-residential properties and will introduce a customer assistance programme for senior citizens.

**BWSL proposes to keep rates the same or even lower for residential and low consumption non-residential customers.** However, some increases are requested for non-residential customers. These are expected to provide an increase of 5% in overall revenue to help the utility maintain operations and perform some level of capital investment for the remaining three years of this Full Tariff Period.

Rate payers will have an opportunity to participate in the PUC's review of the submission, in the coming weeks, when the PUC will conduct public consultations.

The submission can be seen at the PUC's and BWS's offices and websites.

For more information regarding this or any other BWS  
Release, please contact:  
Corporate Communications at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 1405  
or 1408  
or via e-mail at [pr@bws.com.bz](mailto:pr@bws.com.bz)



# Caribbean Development Bank to hold 52nd Annual Meeting

by Khaila Gentle

TURKS AND CAICOS, Tues. May 10, 2022

The Caribbean Development Bank's 52nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors is set to take place in Turks and Caicos (TCI) on June 13-16, 2022. Ahead of the meeting's start date, an official media launch was hosted on Tuesday, during which the island's premier, Hon. Charles Misick, welcomed the CDB members and other development partners to the upcoming meeting.

"This meeting and similar undertakings of this nature are beneficial to both the region and TCI to sustain and partner as we work towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more importantly decreasing our vulnerabilities and building resilience," said Hon. Misick, who is also serving as the Board of Governors' Chair and the CDB's Governor for British Overseas Territories.

The main focus of the upcoming meeting—which is being held under the theme "Measure Better to Target Better: Adaptation and Resilience"—will be the formulation of strategies and actions that need to be taken in order to bring the region closer to meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The bank has noted that this will be done "by leveraging knowledge, innovation, and creativity to foster resilience, drive economic diversity, and increase the competitive advantage for our economies."



Hon. Charles Misick, Turks and Caicos premier (l), and Dr. Hyginus 'Gene' Leon, CDB president (r)  
Image via the Caribbean Development Bank

The meeting will also include high-level discussions between the bank, its partner organizations, and international experts on key issues that are being faced by the region.

Another speaker at the press launch was Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon, the president of the Caribbean Development Bank. Dr. Leon stated, "resilience for us is one of, if not the most, existential factors we face...being able to build resilience, being able to drive our own future...becomes the most ethical obligation...our entire focus is on adaptation and mitigation, building resilience for a brighter tomorrow."

According to the CDB, participants in the event will include the president of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akimwumi Adesina; president of the Inter-American Development Bank, Mauricio Claver-Carone; and president of the European Investment Bank, Dr. Werner Hoyer, as well as government ministers from the CDB's 19 borrowing member countries (including Belize), its development partners, and other private sector interests.

"With less than 8 years left until 2030, the region must accelerate its efforts to close the gap to the SDGs. CDB is therefore championing innovative solutions to respond to the region's social, financial, and environmental challenges," stated the CDB.

## Coastal Road upgrade near completion



Hon. Julius Espat, Minister of Infrastructure Development

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 11, 2022

The upgrade of the Coastal Road—a project which began in early 2020 under the previous UDP administration with funding and/or assistance from the British High Commission, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Department for International Development, in conjunction with the government of Belize—is almost 80 percent complete and is scheduled to reach completion within another year, according to Minister of Infrastructure and Development, Hon. Julius Espat.

Hon. Espat mentioned to local reporters, however, some of the difficulties that have been encountered during the project.

"That's a difficult one, though, because that one is in a real flood zone, and even the UK government, when we came in, there were complaints that the sizes of the culverts were not adequate for the animals to pass. We sat with the UK government. We sat with all the

Please turn to Page 25



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT  
AND  
HOUSING**

**INVITATION TO QUOTE**

**PROCUREMENT OF LUBRICANTS**



The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to procure various types of Lubricants necessary for maintenance of its equipment fleet stationed in all six districts.

The MIDH now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: **Lubricants**. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedures (Shopping Procedures).

Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required types of Lubricants as of **Monday May 13, 2022**, from the MIDH's Offices located at #1 Power Lane, Belmopan from Monday through to Friday 8.00 AM – 5.00 PM.

Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote and all information is to be submitted in English. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested. Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **Lubricants** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **inclusive of 12.5% General Sales Tax**.

The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Supplier who complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and submitted the lowest evaluated price.

All sealed Quotes must be delivered to the address below by **2.00 PM local time on May 30, 2022** and they will be opened on the same day at 2.15 P.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

<p>1. Victor Espat Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Infrastructure Development &amp; Housing #1 Power Lane Belmopan, Belize Tel: 501-822-2136/39 Fax: 501-822-3282 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz">ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz</a></p>	<p>2. Lennox Bradley Chief Engineer Ministry of Infrastructure Development &amp; Housing #1 Power Lane Belmopan, Belize Tel: 501-822-2136/39 Fax: 501-822-3282 E-mail: <a href="mailto:chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz">chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz</a></p>
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## LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd. is currently accepting applications for:

- **1 CASHIER for the Belmopan Branch**
- **1 ACCOUNTS/OPERATIONS CLERK for the Belmopan Branch**
- **1 OFFICE ASSISTANT/ MESSENGER for the Orange Walk Branch**

### EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

#### I. CASHIER:

- An Associate's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related field.
- Work experience in related field will be an asset

#### II. Accounts / Operations Clerk

- A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or related field.
- Three Year's work experience in related field

#### III. Office Assistant/ Messenger:

- An Associate's Degree in Business Administration or related.
- Work experience in related field will be an asset.

### All Prospective applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Proficient in Microsoft Office Applications – MS Word, MS Excel etc.
2. Must have strong initiative, assertiveness, be results-oriented, analytical and self-motivated
3. Ability to maintain high ethical and professional standards
4. Ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality and integrity
5. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
6. Excellent planning and organizational skills
7. Excellent Time Management Skills
8. Ability to work well under pressure
9. Be team oriented, proactive and possess a positive attitude
10. Be willing to work flexible hours
11. Be fluent in English and Spanish, both written and oral
12. Knowledge in Anti-Money Laundering & Combating the Financing of Terrorism Laws will be an asset.
13. Knowledge of the banking industry in Belize and general regulatory procedures mandated by the Central Bank of Belize. (Knowledge of the Credit Union Act will be an Asset).
14. Be willing to travel as required and possess a valid Driver's License Class A.

*All Applicants must provide along with their application letter, two (2) recent letters of reference, Curriculum Vitae, Recent Police Record, Junior College and/or University transcripts with copies of diploma.*

Applications that are emailed must be sent in **one single PDF file**. A receipt of payment for a recent police record will be accepted. Only complete applications will be considered.

Applications must be sent by **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022** addressed to:

General Manager  
La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd.  
5 Park Street  
Orange Walk Town  
Email: [hr@licubelize.org](mailto:hr@licubelize.org)

*Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.*



## BELMOPAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

VACANCY exists for the following posts at the Belmopan Comprehensive School:

<b>1 Assistant Bursar</b>	-	<b>Full Time</b>
<b>5 Security Guards (1 female, 4 males)</b>	-	<b>Full Time</b>
<b>1 Janitor</b>	-	<b>Full Time</b>

**Assistant Bursar Qualifications:** A High School Diploma in Business or related field. The applicant must portray a knowledge of basic accounting, cashier experience and excellent public relations skills. Knowledge in QuickBooks is an asset. Should have an aptitude for working with figures and must be able to maintain confidentiality.

#### Applicants for the post of Assistant Bursar should submit:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copy of Qualifications
- **Original** Transcript
- Certified copy of Social Security
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- **Original** Police Record – from within the last 3 months.
- Two letters of recommendation from most recent supervisor and/or colleague – from within the last year
- Certified medical report - a medical examination completed within the last two months.

**Security Guard Qualifications:** A Primary School certificate with experience in the security field.

#### Applicants for Security Guard post should submit:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum Vitae
- **Certified** copy of Primary School Certificate
- **Certified** Copy of Social Security Card
- **Certified** Copy of Birth Certificate
- **Original** Police Record
- Two letters of recommendation from most recent supervisor and/or colleague – from within the last year
- Certified medical report - a medical examination completed within the last two months.

**Janitor Qualifications:** A High School Diploma is preferred but a Primary School Certificate may be considered along with skill and experience.

**\*Note that job may require heavy lifting and operation of some machinery. Must have a class 'E' (All) Driver's License.**

Applicants for the post of Janitor can pick up an application form from the main office.

**Deadline: Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

#### Applications must be addressed to:

Secretary  
Board of Management  
Belmopan Comprehensive School  
South Ring Road  
Belmopan



## BELMOPAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

VACANCY exists for the following post at the Belmopan Comprehensive School, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

<b>1 Business Teacher</b>	-	<b>Temporary (3 Months)</b>
<b>1 Social Studies/History Teacher</b>	-	<b>Temporary (3 Months)</b>
<b>1 English/Literature</b>	-	<b>Temporary (3 Months)</b>

**Teaching Qualifications:** A Bachelor's Degree in the subject area with educational component. An Associates Degree with teaching experience may be considered.

#### Applicants should submit:

- Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae,
- Certified copy of qualifications,
- Certified copy of teaching license,
- **Original** transcript,
- Copy of social security card,
- Copy of birth certificate,
- **Original** police record,
- Medical form
- Two letters of recommendation from most recent employer (must be from within the last year)

**Deadline: Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

#### Applications must be addressed to:

Secretary  
Board of Management  
Belmopan Comprehensive School  
South Ring Road  
Belmopan





## INVITATION TO QUOTE- GOODS

**Institution:** Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing  
**Country:** Belize  
**Project:** Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project  
**Sector:** Transport  
**Abstract:** Equipment for the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing  
**Loan No.:** Loan 4616/OC-BL  
**Deadline:** 2:00 p.m. (Belize Local Time) on May 20, 2022

- The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of **Additional communication Strategy -Road Safety signs** under the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotation from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: **Additional communication Strategy -Road Safety signs**.
- Bidding will be conducted through Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required **Road Safety Signs** from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) AND [mow.project3344@gmail.com](mailto:mow.project3344@gmail.com).
- Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
- Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **Road Safety Signs** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **Inclusive of General Sales Tax**.
- Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
  - VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
  - SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
- Quotation must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on May 20, 2022**. Electronic quote **will not** be permitted. Late quote will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

**Attention of (Name):** Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator  
Program Management Unit

**Address:** Program Management Unit  
First Floor – Soils Lab  
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing  
Power Lane, Belmopan  
Cayo District, Belize

**Phone #:** 822-1942/822-0100

**Email:** [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) AND [mow.project3344@gmail.com](mailto:mow.project3344@gmail.com)



## Vacancies at Julian Cho Technical High School



Julian Cho Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following posts:

- 1 Math Teacher – Temporary (August to November 2022)
- 1 Technical Drawing Teacher – Temporary (August to November 2022)
- 1 Principles of Accounts/Spanish Teacher – Temporary (August to November 2022)

### Qualification for Teacher:

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred, however an Associate Degree in the subject area may be considered.
- Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- Good communication skills and a willingness to uphold the mission of Julian Cho Technical High School.

### Application package must include:

- A letter of application and resume
- Certified copies of diplomas and certificate/s
- Sealed transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copy of Social Security Card
- Recent Medical Certificate
- Recent Police Record
- Valid Teacher's License (Secondary level)
- Two recent letters of recommendation

**\*ALL COPIED DOCUMENTS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.**

### Salary:

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale based on qualification.

Application packages must be addressed to:

Secretary  
Board of Governors  
Julian Cho Technical High School  
P.O Box 171  
Toledo District  
Belize, Central America

Deadline for applications is Monday May 23, 2022.



## Maud Williams High School

Email: [mwhseducate@gmail.com](mailto:mwhseducate@gmail.com)

## TEACHERS WANTED

At MWHS our students come first and we work tirelessly for our students' success. This positive determination means that we provide our students with a positive, caring school environment with ample opportunities for students to do well.

If you believe that you are qualified and can add value at MWHS, you are invited to apply to fill the following VACANCIES for September 2022

- Business (Temporary September-November)
- Mathematics (Temporary September – November)
- English Language (Permanent)
- Home Economics (Permanent)
- Building Maintenance (Permanent)

Deadline: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Teaching Qualifications:

- Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in the content areas with pedagogical training.
- An Associate Degree with teaching experience will be considered.

### Applicants should forward:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Two recent recommendations
- Copy of transcript
- Certified copy of teaching license
- Certified copies of qualifications
- Copy of Police Record

Short listed candidates are asked to bring to the interview original transcripts, policerecord and completed medical form.

Address to: Secretary  
Board of Management  
Maud Williams High School  
Corner Dolphin and Raccoon Streets  
Belize City



# RENDER ONTO CAESAR WHAT BELONGS TO CAESAR

So, I have been following the Belize news, specifically regarding the push by the Church to force a referendum on the decision on whether to legalize marijuana or not, which is a done deal by the government. Apparently, the Church, led by Rev. Wade and Bishop Benguche (no relation to me, thankfully) is spearheading the illegitimate assault on the process of governing. First off, I want to inform these two men of the cloth that they are surpassing their duties by meddling in government business. In the vernacular of Belize Creole, I advise, "mind yo own business". The Church has no business meddling in the process that determines the law of the land. That responsibility is the sole responsibility of the duly elected government of a democratic country.

The Church is not an arm of the

government. The Church needs to stay in its own lane and stick to the edict that outlines their responsibility, which is baptizing those who so desire, ministering to the sick and poor, and preparing souls to enter the kingdom of Heaven. In most countries, the separation of church and state is explicit for obvious reasons; consider the governments of Iran and Israel. If it were left to the Church, burning at the stake of non-believers would probably still occur, Galileo may have never contributed to the discovery of the New World; movies would still be censored. In Belize, the government does not interfere in Church business, and reciprocally the Church should not interfere with government business.

The Bible provides a clear example of this when the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus into meddling in politics. Jesus

told them, "render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and render unto God the things that are God's". The Church has no business immersing themselves in politics. The legislation of marijuana is complex; regardless of the pros and cons on this issue, it is not the Church's business whether to legalize marijuana or not. My purpose in this essay is not to argue the pros and cons of marijuana. My issue is with the Church overstepping their edict. The Church should be concerned with policing themselves and getting rid of the pedophiles and sodomites in their midst. They should stick to their hustle of living large.

When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, he recorded his experience in Exodus 20. There was smoke, fire, a burning bush, lightening and the blasts of trumpets. I wonder what Moses was

smoking. I challenge the Church leaders in Belize and their opaque handlers to hold a joint session before they parade themselves as holier than thou. Perhaps too, like Moses, God will reveal a vision to them to include with their twenty-thousand signatures they have collected, ostensibly to influence a vote on the legalization of marijuana.

What would Jesus' position be on marijuana? So, Jesus was partying with his disciples at a wedding in Cana. Everyone was having a good time, and they ran out of wine. Jesus, seeing the dilemma, refilled the jugs with vintage wine, and the party continued. Based on this story, it is my opinion that Jesus would have no problem when people nice-up themselves. Take heed, Rev. Wade and Bishop Benguche. Le lah Caesario, lah Caesario. Praise be to the Almighty for his gift of life and the holy sacrament of the Ganja.

Itarala,  
Moses X [Benguche@gmail.com](mailto:Benguche@gmail.com)



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected Belize as one of only two countries in the world for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth.

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment, intends to contract a team of individual consultants to form a Compact Development Team in Belize that will work together with a U.S.-based MCC Team to conduct a diagnosis of the constraints to economic growth, prepare concept notes, develop project proposals, and plan for project implementation.

The Belize Compact Development Team will be led by a National Coordinator who will manage the team, engage key stakeholders across all sectors, and bear responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team. The Education and Workforce Development Specialist will be a member of this team and will, working closely with the MCC and other members of the Compact Development Team (CDT), coordinate the identification of potential projects that address the human capital constraint to growth; ensure that those projects are designed in a technically sound manner, reflect international good practice, and meet MCC's Investment Criteria; draft the concept note and concept paper that describe an education project in detail; and provide input into the analysis of policy and institutional issues.

### Vacant Post

#### 1. Education and Workforce Development Specialist

**Remuneration:** Competitive salary and benefits are offered, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate. Kindly follow the below link for further details.

<https://med.gov.bz/>

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: a) Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; b) the curriculum vitae, c) copies of university degrees, and d) the names of 3 references.

Subsequently the top 3 applicants for the post will be interviewed.

Deadline for application is **13 May 2022 at 4:00pm**. Application can be sent via email to: [econdev@med.gov.bz](mailto:econdev@med.gov.bz) or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Economic Development  
Sir Edney Cain Building  
Ground Floor, Right Wing  
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Any request for clarification should be sent via email to [econdev@med.gov.bz](mailto:econdev@med.gov.bz) no later than **6 May 2022**. Responses will be provided within three days.

## Mullins River woman, 64, killed in car crash on her birthday

*Bernalda Gregoria Pinelo of Mullins River village died on her 64th birthday on the Stann Creek Valley Road.*



*Bernalda Gregoria, deceased*

*by Charles Gladden*

STANN CREEK DISTRICT, Tues. May 10, 2022

On Monday, May 9, Bernalda Gregoria Pinelo, of Mullins River Village, Stann Creek District, was celebrating her 64<sup>th</sup> birthday when her life ended abruptly in a road traffic accident that occurred when a pickup truck in which she was a passenger collided with a James Bus being driven by 47-year-old Rolando Antonio Duran



# La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital

Has vacancies for the following positions:

**General, Family and Preventative Medicine  
Physician**

**Radiologist**

Interested individuals are asked to submit their resumes  
before May 15, 2022

Resumes may be sent to:  
Human Resource Dir., PO Box 17, San Ignacio, Cayo  
hrdirector@lalomaluz.bz

If further information is needed, please call us at:  
824-2087 or 824-2050 during the hours of  
8am to 5pm.



## GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of:

### DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court will be responsible to serve and function as deputy chief administrator of the General Registry of the Supreme Court

Applicants must:

- be a qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Attorney-at-Law of at least ten (10) years call to the bar in a Commonwealth jurisdiction; and
- have administrative experience within the public sector; or at a supervisory/management Level.

Interested persons may download an application package from the Supreme Court's Website – [www.belizejudiciary.org](http://www.belizejudiciary.org) or request in writing from:

The Secretary  
Judicial and Legal Services Commission  
Belmopan City, Cayo District  
Belize, Central America  
Telephone number: 822-2204 or 822-2235  
email address: [ceo@mps.gov.bz](mailto:ceo@mps.gov.bz)

Deadline for receipt of applications: May 15, 2022

Note: Only suitably qualified applicants will be acknowledged.  
The Judicial and Legal Services Commission does not bind itself to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

<b>Institution:</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
<b>Country:</b>	Belize
<b>Project:</b>	Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program
<b>Sector:</b>	Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
<b>Abstract:</b>	Individual Consulting Services - Technical Specialist
<b>Loan/Credit/Grant No.:</b>	4426/OC-BL
<b>Deadline:</b>	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of a Technical Specialist for one year who will be responsible for leading the supervision of civil works activities for the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program being executed by the Program Management Unit at the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank](#) (GN-2350-15, January 2020) – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit  
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942  
Email: [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) or [cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com)

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **2:00 p.m. (Local Belize time) on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Attn:** Mr. Rolando Chan  
Program Coordinator  
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan  
Cayo District, Belize  
**Tel:** 501-822-0100/1942  
**E-mail:** [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) or [cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com)



# The world is in a mess!

On several occasions, I have mentioned throughout these pages that there is not a person in the world who knows it all. What we do have, is our personal experience in life. To have knowledge about an existing thing, situation, we have to investigate, and we have to read a lot and listen to the opinions of many. There are people who are dedicated to analyzing history or events, both past and present. They seek, through this, to prophesy about what the future may be, but no one knows for sure what tomorrow is going to be. At the end of 2019, a virus that we all know by the name Coronavirus appeared. It was something new; we know where it came from, but we don't know who developed it or how it was developed. Many give their theory, but no one has the truth, and that truth we will never get to know. We will have to learn

to live with this virus, like many others.

The world turned upside down. Many countries invested, those who had funds to invest, and most of the countries, like Third World or developing countries, got into debt. Many people have died and continue to die. Many vaccines came out. There were those who wanted the vaccine to be free for all the inhabitants of the world, but the Western countries didn't want that. What they wanted to have was their own, which could be marketed for the benefit of the pharmaceutical corporations. Here we can see a big difference between the way of thinking of the Western alliance and the thinking of other countries, such as China and Russia, that are now in a conflict with the West that seems to be global.

There are those who have predicted a third world war. We know that what there

is, is an economic war which has been going on for a long time. The Coronavirus left us naked and left us begging, because we were not prepared. In a conversation I had with a friend who has a Master's degree in economics, he told me that capitalism is not a bad thing, that it is a good thing. The bad thing is the corruption of the leaders of the countries. The truth is that I had to remain silent, because he would be absolutely right. The corruption of political and religious leaders, in general, all of them, are corrupt; and that has caused our people to be in poverty. Large corporations are also corrupt and have taken advantage of the weakest due to their power. They have bled us dry and robbed us and continue to bleed us dry and rob us. Something

by Clinton Canul Luna

that is not going to stop right now. Possibly a third world war could see a new world order—a more egalitarian one, one where the working class and the producers of goods, are paid what is rightfully theirs.

We can see right now in Europe, Europe does not produce; it still needs what we produce, and it has always been like that. They need the grain from Russia, they need the gas from Russia and they have to pay for it in rubles, in Russian money, so Vladimir Putin put a price of 5 thousand rubles for an ounce of gold, and there we can see how the petro-dollar that was so powerful is falling. They have been investing in supporting Ukraine in a senseless war which many have predicted will be global, that is, a bloody war, not only economic, bloody. It has not been declared yet; the coin is in the air, but the actions are showing that it is. The curious thing about this is that many of the countries that are members of NATO, like in the case of the majority of the European countries who depend on gas, grains and many other material goods, are suffering the consequences of the sanctions that were imposed on the producer, Russia. It is easy to destabilise the enemies of Russia by simply not supplying them with what they need, such as turning off the gas tap—and they would die of cold; simply stop selling them grain, and that's it: they have nothing to eat or to feed their animals.

As for its leaders, we hope that it never happens. Russia has a bomb which is called Poseidon that in 12 minutes can either destroy Miami, Washington or Los Angeles, and they will not be able to stop it. One of those bombs could fall on Great Britain and wipe out all of Europe. It wipes out in the sense that people are going to die. But there is another interesting matter which is the People's Republic of China that for years has been saying that Taiwan belongs to them, but Taiwan has asserted its independence, okay, but for that those other dominant countries would have to give up the countries that they have under their control, like the Falkland Islands, or Puerto Rico, and we could continue the list. It's a never-ending song, but watch out, as Taiwan is known as the number one producer of a CHIP that is used in electronic products, such as iPhones, computers, and cars, etc. Without that CHIP, the communication system, the entire internet system, will go down. We would be going about 30 years behind. That's how big this is.

The idea of globalization, the idea of a single country that dominates the whole world, a single law, a single God is impossible. That is the dream that the United States and NATO have had, including Canada, of course. That is impossible because each region has its history and its culture; each region has its

Please turn to Page 22

## VACANCY NOTICE

### Electro Mechanic

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Mechanic/Electrical Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity both males/females, able/ differently abled are encouraged to apply for the available post.

Reports to: Technical Manager

**Summary of Responsibilities:** Electro mechanical technicians are competent in combining mechanical technology with knowledge of electrical and electronic circuits. It includes applying the principles and theories of electronics to the mechanical systems. They utilize their knowledge to devise, test, maintain and repair the any and all electro-mechanical component and machines. The main purpose of the role is to undertake maintenance, repairs and installation to upgrade, maintain and commission mechanical and electrical installations for all Port of Belize equipment and auxiliary systems within the compound.

**Job Responsibilities:**

- Maintains releases and assists in developing electrical/mechanical drawings, systems designs or engineering documentation and data, by applying Company, industry and governmental standards.
- Read blueprints, schematics, and diagrams to determine the method and sequence of assembly of a part, machine, or piece of equipment.
- Perform corrective, preventative and predictive maintenance on all equipment in regards to both electrical and mechanical.
- Independently performs set up and testing of digital and power electronics hardware.
- Responsible for troubleshooting and documenting test failures.
- Using design tools and prepares documentation and incorporates basic design changes.
- Creates, develops and maintains elementary systems designs.
- Supports engineering system design and functionality validation activities.
- Troubleshoot, maintain and install Mechanical, Electrical (PLC's), Pneumatic, and Hydraulic systems to provide maximum percentage of uptime possible.
- Supports the development and maintenance of moderately-complex product installation designs and part designs.
- Ensuring all maintenance and installation work is carried out cost effectively, safely and to the highest standard.
- Diagnosing, overseeing and rectifying electrical, electronic and mechanical faults on the port's container handling equipment as well as maintaining the crane lift assemblies, including routine inspection and testing on boat systems.
- Diagnosing, rectifying and repairing faults on the control and instrumentation and utility equipment including electrical control and distribution systems up to and including 440 volts on the port's compound, and handling equipment such as Container Stackers, Tractors, and other equipment within the Port compound include non-lifting light motor vehicles and boats.
- Ensuring compliance to all policies, procedures, standard operating practices with recommendations for action and continuous improvements.
- Maintaining the mobile elevating work platforms and other associated personnel carrying apparatus such as forklifts and man lifts.
- Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time

**Job Qualifications/Requirement:**

- Associates' degree in Electronics or Post -Secondary Technical Degree with over 5 years of experience in Electrical and Mechanical Marine and Heavy Equipment Repairs.
- Being prepared to undertake sufficient training to ensure familiarization with all equipment in service.
- Working Knowledge of Boats would be an asset.
- Having working knowledge of Control Systems, electronics and electrical systems.
- Intermediate Level knowledge of AutoCAD Studio.
- Computer literate and Intermediate Level Knowledge of Microsoft Office Systems.
- Self-starter, strong problem-solving, decision making and interpersonal skills. A high degree of diplomacy and tact is required to deal with depart heads, telephone requests and operators/office personnel in a pressure environment.
- High sense of responsibility, persistence and confidentiality with strong planning and organizing skills. Discretion in dealing with sensitive matters is of utmost importance and must be able to anticipate unusual situations and project solutions.
- Be able to operate under deadlines, and utilize personal initiative.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.

**Required Skills, Knowledge and Characteristics:** To be selected applicants must possess the following important characteristics:

- **Mechanical** — Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- **Computers and Electronics** — Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
- **Engineering and Technology** — Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.
- **English Language** — Strong oral and written skills.

**Compensation Package:** Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

**To apply:** Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, valid police report, name and phone number of two(2) previous employers.

Email to:  
[jobapplications@portofbelize.com](mailto:jobapplications@portofbelize.com)  
 Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, May 27, 2022.



**NOTICE**

**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS  
ISSUE NUMBER 6/2022**

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 18 May 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 17 August 2022.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 13 May 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 18 May 2022.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

**Bank: Central Bank of Belize  
Account: GLICORP0402627**

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website ([www.centralbank.org.bz](http://www.centralbank.org.bz))

26 April 2022

# What Happens if Roe v. Wade Is Overturned?

## What We Know About the Supreme Court Decision

Written by [Julia Ries](http://www.healthline.com) ([www.healthline.com](http://www.healthline.com))

May 5, 2022

New documents leaked to the public appear to show that the U.S. Supreme Court is likely to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark decision that legalized abortion access nationwide.

An initial draft opinion first published by Politico appeared to show that a majority of the court voted to strike down Roe v. Wade. The opinion was written by Justice Samuel Alito.

In a statement, Chief Justice John Roberts called the leak a “betrayal” but emphasized that the decision was not final.

“Although the document described in yesterday’s reports is authentic, it does not represent a decision by the Court or the final position of any member on the issues in the case,” he said.

The official decision from the U.S. Supreme Court hadn’t been expected until June or July, and the draft decision does not have any legal ramifications.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision has been widely anticipated in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health

Organization, a case challenging Mississippi’s 15-week ban against most abortions.

The American Medical Association issued a statement on May 5 pointing out that dozens of medical organizations consider abortion to be safe and part of medical care.

“This opinion would lead to government interference in the patient-physician relationship, dangerous intrusion into the practice of medicine, and potentially criminalizing care,” Gerald E. Harmon, MD, the president of the American Medical Association. “As discussed in an amicus brief filed with the Court, the AMA and more than two dozen leading medical organizations believe abortion is safe medical care that is a decision to be made between the patient and the physician, subject to the physician’s clinical judgment, and the patient’s informed consent.”

Full article can be viewed at: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/what-could-happen-in-the-u-s-if-roe-v-wade-is-overturned#Many-states-could-ban-or-restrict-abortion>  
First published by [www.healthline.com](http://www.healthline.com)

# The world is in a mess!

Continued from **Page 21**

way of being, and what these people must begin to learn is to be tolerant. We can see right now, with the visits that the President of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, has made in Central America, we have heard what he has said. It is not possible to have a meeting of the countries of the Americas without Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua; well, what the hell is happening to the United States? What the hell is wrong with Washington? He will invite those whom he wants and doesn’t want. It is not correct; we either are all sons or all bastards. As I have mentioned in my previous article, the British Foreign Secretary had said that they need a globalized NATO. Of course. They want to impose their way of being; it is not possible. It’s not possible.

They have made a mess of the human mind. Here in America they brought a cross, and there are those who want to say that this cross already existed before the arrival of the Europeans. That’s how messed up people’s minds are. There was never a Christian cross here in the Americas. You have to differentiate between the cross they used or the sticks they used, not to crucify, but to execute a criminal, which was the case at that time. That object was to execute criminals. It was a Crux Simplex. Thereafter, the church sanctified it. It’s just like the guillotine, where they took people’s heads off; there’s nothing sacred about it. Those were weapons used to execute criminals. That is what they have done, and of course, each region has its god, its Buddah, its Allah, Krishna, and we can continue. They have

their customs, they have their way of being that they have lived with for thousands of years, and they wanted to establish a new world order. They tried, they can’t do it, it can’t be done.

What must be done is to respect the right of the people who make up the communities or nations of the world. To be able to sit at a round table and talk and reason. Why? For we are supposed to be human beings, not humanoid robots, although many of these First World leaders behave as if they were programmed. Probably, they are and not homosapiens, because we human beings are supposed to be reasonable; we are thinking beings. We can sit down and listen to the point of views of others, even if we don’t agree with them. We can reason very well and shake hands and share food, why not? That a person thinks differently than me, it does not mean that I am not going to share a meal. And speaking about a meal, if I were young I would like to punch the mouth of those who say that there is better health care in Belize when there are no medications. Well, what happens to this ball of fools.? What good is it for us to have doctors, buildings and nurses when there are no medications. Fool’s ball. The fools are not us. We listen and do not answer. We are going to answer in 2025. How the heck are you going to have buildings, and doctors and nurses when there are no medications. Shame on such expressions!

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)  
May 8, 2022  
Finca Solana  
Corozal Town



**CENTRAL BANK  
of BELIZE**

**\$36,001,000 Fixed Rate Notes**

The Government of Belize (GoB) is offering to the public \$36,001,000 in Five-Year Fixed Rate Notes. Application forms are available on the Central Bank’s website: [www.centralbank.org.bz](http://www.centralbank.org.bz), and may be submitted via email to [InvestmentsWeb@centralbank.org.bz](mailto:InvestmentsWeb@centralbank.org.bz). The Central Bank reserves the right to accept or reject all or any application.

<b>Issuer</b>	Government of Belize								
<b>Amount</b>	\$36,001,000								
<b>Denomination</b>	\$1,000 or multiples thereof								
<b>Issue Date</b>	17 May 2022								
<b>Settlement Date</b>	17 May 2022								
<b>Closing Date</b>	16 May 2022								
<b>Price</b>	Sold at Par								
<b>Currency</b>	Belize Dollar								
<b>Structure</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tenor</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Coupon Rate</th> <th>Maturity Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5 Years</td> <td>\$36,001,000</td> <td>3.5%</td> <td>17 May 2027</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tenor	Amount	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	5 Years	\$36,001,000	3.5%	17 May 2027
Tenor	Amount	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date						
5 Years	\$36,001,000	3.5%	17 May 2027						
<b>Principal Repayment</b>	The principal amount will be repaid on 17 May 2027 the Maturity Date.								
<b>Interest Payment</b>	All interest on the Notes accrues from the date of issue and will be payable in Belize dollars, semi-annually on November 17 and May 17 in each year until maturity.								
<b>Payment Instructions</b>	Payment is to be made to Central Bank’s account: GLICORP0402627 at any commercial bank.								
<b>Fiscal/Paying Agent</b>	Central Bank of Belize								
<b>Security</b>	These Notes are backed by the full faith and credit of the GoB.								
<b>Tax Status</b>	Interest earnings on the notes are tax exempt.								
<b>Transferability</b>	Successful applicants will have the option to transfer ownership.								
<b>Additional Information</b>	Central Bank of Belize, Telephone (501)223-6194 Exts. 140/141/142/143 <a href="http://www.centralbank.org.bz">www.centralbank.org.bz</a>								





# HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED

HODAPP HOUSE

## Notice (member-owners of HRCU)

The Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited (HRCU) hereby gives notice to its members that at a Board of Directors meeting held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 Directors passed a resolution for members to vote on HRCU undertaking Evangel Credit Union Limited Transfer of Engagement. A Transfer of Engagement is a voluntary process whereby all assets, liabilities, and undertakings of one or more credit unions are transferred to another credit union.

As per Section 63 of the Credit Union Act, members of HRCU will have the opportunity to vote to affirm or oppose the undertaking of Evangel Credit Union Limited Transfer of Engagement at their 78th Annual General Meeting scheduled for:

**Saturday, May 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. sharp  
at the Belize Civic Center**

If accepted by the member-owners of HRCU this Transfer of Engagement will be done under the guidance of the Belize Credit Union League (BCUL) and the supervision of the Registrar of Credit Unions. Therefore any representation relating to this Transfer of Engagement may be made in writing to the Belize Credit Union League Limited before May 28, 2022 at:

**Belize Credit Union League Limited  
#88 Victoria Street, P.O. Box 397  
Belize City, Belize  
Email: [g.babb@bculbz.org](mailto:g.babb@bculbz.org)**

Members of HRCU desiring additional information on this Transfer of Engagement can contact their credit union direct at the contact information provided below.

Dated this 9th day of May 2022

  
**Albert L. Vaughan**  
Secretary, Board of Directors



# NATS announces Farmers of the Year for 2022

BELIZE CITY, Tues. May 10, 2022

The National Agriculture and Trade Show will be held later this month after a two-year hiatus, under the theme, "Innovations in Technology: Driving a Climate of Resilient and Competitive Agriculture and Food Sector", and in conjunction with the announcement of that theme, the committee has released the

names of the persons whom it has selected to be the recipients of the Farmers of the Year award for 2022. Three individuals from varying districts and one notable mention were announced by the NATS committee in its release yesterday.

Orlando Ek of the Corozal District will



**Ms. Krystle Romero**  
Stand-Out (Impressive Junior Farmer) 2022



**Darwin Orellana**  
Junior Farmer of the Year 2022



**Mrs. Norma Figueroa**  
Female Farmer of the Year 2022



**Mr. Orlando Ek**  
Male Farmer of the Year 2022

take home the prize for the Male Farmer of the Year. The Female Farmer of the Year award will be presented this year to two recipients after an impressive submission from a young farmer from Toledo. Mrs. Norma Figueroa took the first place prize, while a second-place

finisher, Ms. Krystle Romero, was also selected.

In its release, the NATS committee stated, "Ms. Romero is the 2nd place finisher in the Female Farmer of the Year category and was very close in points to the winner. While the competition

traditionally only recognizes the top finishers in each category, the evaluators felt that Ms. Romero, who can be classified as a junior female farmer, shows great potential for the future."

The "Agric" Show will be held from May 27 to the 29th at the Belmopan National Agriculture and Trade Showgrounds. An official ceremony recognizing the awardees is expected to take place at that time.

## VACANCY NOTICE

*A Port with a Global Perspective*

### MECHANIC

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Mechanical/Electrical Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity, both females/males, are encouraged to apply for the available post.

**Reports to: Technical Manager**

**Summary of Responsibilities:** Individual should be able to make adjustments on Brakes, Parking Brakes, Clutches under supervision. Remove/Replace Master Clutch/Breaks cylinders, Bleed Brakes, clutch, cooling system and cable rope.

**Job Responsibilities:**

- Able to remove and replace tires on all equipment's.
- Perform inspection checks/services oil & filter change.
- Assist in cleaning mechanical workshop.
- Remove & replace all equipment: starters, alternators, fan belts, radiators, Hydraulic hoses, cooling hoses, mirrors & shocks etc.
- Able to make adjustments on Brakes, parking brakes, and clutches.
- Remove/Replace Master Clutch/Breaks cylinders, Bleed Brakes, clutch, cooling system and cable rope.
- Any other duties that may be assigned of a related nature.

**Job qualifications/Requirements:**

- Minimum High School diploma with over 5 years' experience or Associates Degree in automotive technology or related field with 3 years' experience will be an asset.
- Must possess a valid driver's license.
- Basic knowledge to scan ECU (ECM), TCU and adjoining cabin electronics.
- Basic knowledge on propane fuel system

**Skills/Competencies:**

- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong analytical skills
- Critical Thinker

**Compensation Package:** Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

**To apply:** Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, Valid police record, name and phone number of two (2) previous employers.

Applications should be emailed to:  
[jobapplications@portofbelize.com](mailto:jobapplications@portofbelize.com)  
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, May 27, 2022.

## Mullins River woman, 64, killed...

Continued from Page 19

of Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District, on the Stann Creek Valley Road off the Hummingbird Highway.

According to initial reports from police, Duran was driving a James Bus which was traveling from Belmopan to Dangriga Town when, somewhere between Miles 2 and 3 on the Stann Creek Valley Road, he saw a white pickup truck emerging from the right side of a dirt road located behind Lock & Key. Pinelo and two other passengers were inside that truck, which was being driven by 53-year-old Paul Bernard.

Duran told police that he flashed his lights and honked the horn of the bus to alert Bernard that he was approaching, and it had initially appeared that Bernard had responded appropriately, since Bernard brought the pickup to a halt and reversed back onto the dirt road. Duran, upon seeing the pickup truck reverse onto the dirt road, then proceeded along the highway. However, moments later, the truck unexpectedly sped onto the highway, and then attempted to make a left turn.

According to Duran, he applied his brakes but was not able to bring the bus to a stop in time, and its front portion hit the front side of Duran's truck, which caused the truck to careen into a ditch in the right side of the road, while the bus swerved to the left side of the road.

Pinelo died on impact. Her body was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital at 8:36 p.m., and she was pronounced dead on arrival. Her body was deposited at the morgue, where a post-mortem examination was to be conducted. It has been reported that no other serious injuries or fatalities were caused by the collision.

At the time of the collision, Bernard didn't possess a valid driver's license and is believed to be at fault.



# Tour operators to get a fuel subsidy

**Licensed tour operators will receive a fuel subsidy courtesy of GOB and BTB for six months.**



**Abil Castaneda, the Belize Tourism Board's Director of Quality Management and Capacity Development**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 11, 2022

In an effort to reduce the severity of the impact of ever-rising fuel prices on the operations of tour operators, who purchase considerable amounts of fuel to power the vehicles and water vessels that they use to transport tourists to various destinations within the country, the Government of Belize and the Belize

Tourism Board (BTB) have partnered to launch a fuel subsidy program designated for licensed tour operators.

A total of 1.5 million dollars in fuel subsidies will be provided to tour operators for a six-month period, and according to Abil Castaneda, Director of Quality Management and Capacity Development for the Belize Tourism Board, licensed tour operators are being urged to submit their applications for the subsidy program.

“What we are doing right now, and in fact, we are making a call out to all our licensed tour operators to submit their applications. The application is there so

that we can understand what their level of fuel consumption is in the past and also to look at some projections for the future so that we can finalize in reality a formula that we can use to provide the subsidy in a very equitable manner. The initial thought process was we would give everyone a cap; however, every tour operator — unlike other sectors they have different use of fuel; you know, [there] are some that are in the marine area, some that are terrestrial, some that do tours all the way to Xunantunich, some that only do tours in Altun Ha, so we have to be very, in terms, considerate of all those elements, and that is why we are making this call for all licensed tour operators to kindly submit their

application,” explained Castaneda.

The size of the fuel subsidy apportioned to individual operators will thus be proportionate to the scope of their operation, and the amount of fuel used for the transportation of tourists during that operation.

Castaneda noted that the subsidy is also being offered to tender operators. “So those operators that bring our cruise visitors off the ships onto the mainland, we are also extending it to them, because, in reality, the objective of all of this is to soften the blow in terms of the increase in fuel prices that we are seeing across the board,” he said.

The deadline to submit applications is this Friday, May 13. Licensed tour operators can visit the BTB’s Facebook page or call the BTB at 227-2420.

Notably, some tour operators are viewing the proposed subsidy program with a considerable degree of skepticism — even cynicism. At a press conference held by the Federation of Cruise Tourism Associations of Belize (FECTAB) on Thursday, May 12, the president of FECTAB, David Almendarez, voiced his views about the fuel subsidy program and called it a “scam”.

“The BTB is hustling us. We, tour operators and tour guides, that is the thanks we’re getting after the pandemic. They have a thing that is called ‘fuel subsidies’. I laughed. First of all, when we needed the fuel subsidies during the high season when gas was peaking, they didn’t help us. Now that no business is going on, fuel subsidies. Who got the most buses? Which company has the most buses? Who uses the most buses? [Does] any local tour operator uses the most bus? [Does] any Belizean use the most bus? So who the hell benefits? Mister Minister, we’re not stupid! Don’t play with our bread”, remarked Almendarez.

## Coastal Road upgrade near completion

Continued from Page 16

environmentalists, and we made some structural changes to the culvert so that they can follow the specifications that were recommended. That financing, we did on our own. So we are listening to people. We go out and we consult. And even though the projects have already been signed, if there is a way of bettering it, we do,” said Minister Espat.

He further noted, “The supervisors are the same supervisors from here at Polytechnica. The contractor is different, and the supervisors from the Ministry of Work are still a project execution unit. The update report that I have received, they’re on the schedule. They had a couple of setbacks when we had some of the floodings. They had a couple of setbacks during COVID, but they have made the time, and they’re on schedule.”



CENTRAL BANK  
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Central Bank Responds to Dispute at St. Francis Xavier Credit Union

**Belize City, 11 May 2022:** The Governor of the Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank), in his capacity as Registrar of Credit Unions, advises that pursuant to section 26 of the Credit Unions Act, 2011, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, the Board of Directors shall hold, or the Registrar shall call or direct the calling of, an annual or special general meeting of a credit union. The Board of Directors of St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited nor the Registrar has made such calling. The Registrar, therefore, advises that the press release issued by some members of St. Francis Xavier Credit Union dated 9 May 2022 and titled “Long Overdue Annual General Meeting,” contravenes the Law.

The Registrar was also notified of the decision taken by the Board of Directors of St. Francis Xavier Credit Union to not renew the contract of the former General Manager, Mr. Rafael Dominguez Sr. Further, the Registrar is aware of the resulting dispute between the Board of Directors and the former General Manager and the persistent unauthorized actions of some members of St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited.

The Registrar reminds all parties involved in the ongoing dispute of his primary objectives, which are to safeguard and preserve members’ funds. Additionally, protecting the financial sector from disruption and risks are consistent with these objectives.

In accordance with the Credit Unions Act, the Registrar will take decisive action in a situation where he deems that the well-being and interests of the members of a credit union are being compromised.

The Registrar, therefore, urges all parties involved to effectively resolve the ongoing dispute.

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:  
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 GABOUREL LANE.  
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE  
T: +501 223 6194



# PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: CHATTELS

*Hilltop Basketball Court  
North Ring Road, Belmopan, Cayo District*

BY ORDER of the Embassy of the United States of America, Licensed and Certified Auctioneer, Sheldon N.C. Arnold will sell the following chattels at Hilltop Basketball Court, Belmopan, Cayo District on **Saturday, May 21, 2022**, at 9:00 am sharp.

2015 Toyota Prado	Outdoor Fans
Household Furniture	Trailer
Household Appliances	Shipping Containers
Outdoor Patio Furniture	Medical & Automotive Equipment
Office Furniture	Pop Up Tents
Office Supplies	Flat Screen Televisions
Printers, Shredder & Copy Machine	Hospitality Supplies
Computer Parts	Chain Link Fence
Outdoor Gym Equipment	Security Scanner Machine

**[And other attractive items...]**

Buyers must load onto their vehicles/transport by 4pm the same day of the sale.

*All items will be available for viewing on Friday, May 20, 2022 between the hours of 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Hilltop Basketball Court, Belmopan City.*

**\*\*\*All interested bidders must be 18 years or older and will be required to register using a valid (picture) identification card on the day of the sale. Please note that all Rules and Agreements regarding this sale will be available for those viewing the Lots. Final viewing will be permitted one hour prior to the sale.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*CUSTOM DUTIES AND TAXES MUST BE PAID\*\*\***

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUES**

Sheldon N.C. Arnold  
P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan  
Cell # :624-5200 or 602-8308  
Email: [info@arnoldenterprise.com](mailto:info@arnoldenterprise.com)  
Website: [www.arnoldenterprise.com](http://www.arnoldenterprise.com)





# COMPLIANCE OFFICER

## JOB SUMMARY

The Compliance Officer will work with the Assistant General Manager (AGM) Risk and Executive Management to develop, implement and maintain a robust compliance framework including regulatory, Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) and funding agencies' terms and conditions compliance programs.

## QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or other related quantitative field.
2. Five years of successful experience in the financial services industry as a Compliance Officer or Auditor, with in-depth knowledge of regulatory requirements and the law and practice of money laundering.
3. An accreditation with an International Certification Program in Compliance would be an asset.
4. Proven experience in drafting, interpretation and implementation of policies and procedures in the field of work, and contribute to decision-making at the Management level.

## REQUIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

1. Dynamic, competent, proactive, goal-oriented, detail-oriented and excellent organizational and time management skills.
2. Superior communication skills – written, verbal, and inter-personal. The incumbent must display a positive attitude and the ability to interact professionally and effectively with members of the Board of Directors, employees at all levels, and external stakeholders including high-level executives with IFIs, government agencies, and other local and international agencies.
3. Mature and independent in judgment, and able to deal with sensitive and confidential matters and situations with a high level of discretion, diplomacy and tact, and work effectively under pressure.
4. Conviction to stand by difficult decisions and be more influenced by policies and procedures. Willing to take the lead in setting the tone for corporate integrity.
5. Knowledge of DFC's role as a development bank and its contribution to national economic development will be an asset.
6. Familiarity with industry practices and professional standards.
7. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook; and familiar with new channels used for mass communication.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Develop, implement and maintain internal systems, policies and controls for effective regulatory, AML/CFT and funding agencies' terms and conditions compliance programs.
2. Investigate reports of violation of rules, regulations, policies and procedures and develop and oversee a system for uniform handling of such violations.
3. Ensure proper reporting of violations or potential violations internally or externally to duly authorized enforcement agencies as appropriate and/or required.
4. Act as the liaison between the Corporation and regulatory, supervisory and other competent authorities and funding agencies in matters relating to regulatory, AML/CFT or funding agencies' terms and conditions compliance.

5. Provide reports to the Board and Senior Management on the operation and progress of compliance efforts.
6. Build risk awareness amongst employees by providing support and training to employees on regulations and industry practices-as it relates to compliance risk.
7. Contribute to the creation of business continuity plans to limit risks.
8. Contribute to the Human Resources Management Function of the Corporation by fostering an employee-oriented company culture that emphasizes quality, continuous improvement and high performance.
9. To represent DFC locally and internationally on AML/CFT related matters.

## ACT NOW

1. Letter of Application
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Copy of most recent qualification
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (*no older than six months*) – two of which must be professional references
5. Copy of Social Security Card
6. Police record (*no older than six months*)

Submit application with reference Application for Vacancy:

**COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

to:

**Manager**

**Human Resources and General Affairs**

Development Finance Corporation

P. O. Box 40 | Belmopan | Belize, C.A.

Applications may be submitted electronically by email to:

**[vacancies@dfcbelize.org](mailto:vacancies@dfcbelize.org)**

**DEADLINE:**

**MAY 31, 2022**

# VACANCY

Join our exciting team!



## Livestock producers “elated” at waived cattle import duty

Continued from **Page 9**

program through which it will be legalizing the status of about 40,000 irregular immigrants. According to Briceño, he believes that discussion played a significant role in prompting the Mexican president's decision.

“I believe that had a lot to do with his change of mind, because when he said, ‘you know, that’s admirable what you are doing.’ He said, ‘we wish more countries would do what you are doing’—what we are doing here in Belize. And then, he started to ask us what are the products that we have. I said we do rice, we do beans, we do

pork, we do chicken, we do beef, we do shrimp, we do fish,” he said.

President Obrador told Briceño that Mexico could help Belize create opportunities for its farmers, allowing them to remain in rural areas rather than having to go to urban areas, where jobs are limited, or the United States.

Previously, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Mai had referred to the signing of the trade agreement between the two countries as “one of the greatest moments in the history of both nations.”

Shortly after the announcement was made, Minister Mai wrote on his social media page that the decision would

radically change the future of Belize’s agriculture and that Minister Eamon Courtenay and his team had worked for days to achieve an acceptable trade agreement that would benefit local producers.

Since the establishment of cross-border trade with Mexico, Belize’s cattle farmers have had two major export outlets for their product, the second of the two being Guatemala, which contributed to the majority of the BZ \$55 million that has been earned from the export of cattle since 2020. In 2022 alone, a total of 1,442 head of cattle, valued at \$1.7 million, have been exported to Mexico so far—something

which the BLPA refers to as a milestone achievement for local livestock producers.

Back in March of this year, several hundred head of cattle were formally exported from Orange Walk to Mexico after farmers from the district sold their cattle to the Mexican company SuKarne.

While all export duties will be waived, cattle being sent to Mexico must still meet all necessary requirements, including being vaccinated and tested for ectoparasites and diseases like brucellosis as well as being quarantined for at least 21 days prior to exportation.

Call us  
at:  
280-  
4703



**Amandala E-mails**

**[editor\\_amandala@yahoo.com](mailto:editor_amandala@yahoo.com)**  
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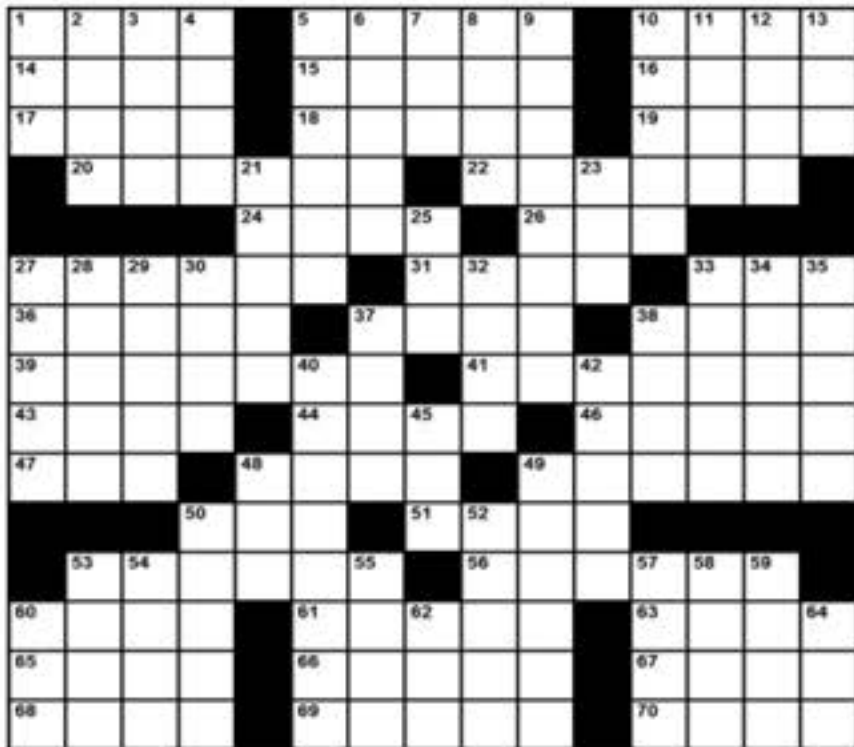
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**AMANDALA - The newspaper with the greatest circulation in Belize!**





Daily Printable Puzzle - 05-11-2022



Across

1. Bookie terms
5. Plumed hat
10. First son
14. Carbamide
15. 1000 kilograms
16. Arm bone
17. Carry on about
18. Writer Chekhov
19. Act like a fan
20. See ya!
22. Knitted garment
24. Drop on Wall Street
26. Deposit
27. Audits, perhaps
31. Berserk
33. Anhydrous
36. Biblical hymn
37. Bachelor party
38. Bingo card word
39. Oval
41. Tar's assents
43. Shoe making strip
44. Bivalve
46. Horizontal beam
47. Duroc's digs
48. Stereo setup
49. Glove leathers
50. Clear tables
51. Accomplishment
53. A Buddhist and Hindu doctrine
56. Skillful
60. Begone
61. Alpha's antithesis
63. Act as umpire
65. Celeste or Ian
66. Face an embankment
67. Be loyal to
68. Jekyll's evil alter ego
69. Kind of drum
70. Cross the creek

Down

1. Belonging to us
2. Dully colored
3. Claim untrue
4. Fill full
5. Extend one's visit
6. Sharpens a blade
7. Aardvark fodder
8. Feel certain
9. The art of making wine
10. A Stooge
11. Balm ingredient
12. A party to
13. Actor Pendleton
21. Buoyant airship
23. Acorn bearer
25. Fri. follower
27. Disgorges
28. Cay or ait
29. Add the score
30. Chink or crack
32. Informal madam
33. Tree nymph
34. Female ruff
35. Affirmatives
37. Egotist's concern
38. Cabbie's income
40. Cutters
42. Chopin creation
45. Assistance
48. Buzz
49. Hardly hyper
50. Type of biotic community
52. Anxious
53. Hey Swabbie!
54. Cargo areas
55. Congregational cry
57. Front of a ship
58. Big brass
59. Coaster
60. Librarian's order
62. A notorious Peron
64. Appreciation for beauty

Crossword answers for last edition

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in the last edition of the Amandala. The answers for the above puzzle will appear in next issue of this newspaper.



Daily Printable Crossword Puzzle - 05-03-2022 - Answers



**KREM Television**  
**Program Guide**  
*Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!*  
 Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to  
**Phone: 202-5848**      [kremtelevision@yahoo.com](mailto:kremtelevision@yahoo.com)

Friday, May 13 to Thursday, May 19, 2022

**FRIDAY**

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Dr. Ivan Van Sertima: African History Revisited — Egypt & the Americas — Sankofa
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: How Life Started On Earth
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

**SATURDAY**

- 9:00 a.m. Movie: The Colour Purple
- 12:00 p.m. Documentary: Destruction Weather
- 12:57 p.m. Movie: Unwanted Guest
- 2:21 p.m. Documentary: Top Secret of Nuclear Bombs
- 3:20 p.m. Movie: The Rosa Parks Story
- 5:00 p.m. Documentary: 1804 — The Hidden History Of Haiti
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

**SUNDAY**

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Belizean Legends: Bredda David
- 12:26 p.m. Movie: Their Eyes Are Watching
- 2:13 p.m. Documentary: Children In Prison For Life Sentence
- 3:04 p.m. Movie: Winnie Mandela
- 4:58 p.m. Belizean Legends: Abdul Marin Nunez
- 5:30 p.m. **Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

**MONDAY**

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Soylent Green
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Children In Prison For Life Sentence
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

**TUESDAY**

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: White Water
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Islam Empire of Faith Part 1 — Prophet Muhammad And The Rise Of Islam
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

**WEDNESDAY**

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: The Zionist Story
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Internet Hackers
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

**THURSDAY**

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: LUV
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Islam Empire of Faith Part 2 - The Awakening
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**





# CAREER OPPORTUNITY



**Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.**  
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals  
to submit applications for the post of:  
**Sustainability Manager, Mill & Agriculture**  
Tower Hill, Orange Walk

## OVERVIEW

The person in this role will be responsible for supporting the ESG / Sustainability Framework and executing on it to show progress in sustainability metrics including environmental goals and social responsibilities commitments. The focus will be on inculcating a culture of sustainability in the organization in collaboration with and support from multi-disciplinary and department teams including operations, supply chain, human resources & legal. The position will also aid in internal and external communications with stakeholders, while developing and advancing corporate social responsibilities and employees' engagement and awareness programs. The **Sustainability Manager** may be called upon to lead interactions and communications with community interest groups, contractors, and consultants, at the direction of Senior Management, the Sr. Director, Sustainability, the VP of CSR, and other Sustainability / ESG leadership members.

## DETAILED ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support the development, maintenance, and implementation of ASR's Sustainability / ESG framework, roadmaps and site specific Sustainability Plans in both Mill Operations and Agricultural Activities. Roadmap activities shall include but not be limited to: System Optimization in Climate Change, Water usage, solid waste generation, and green chemistry programs; Regenerative Agriculture, Biodiversity, and Agroforestry Programs; Ethical and Responsible Social Programs.
- Support site leadership through facilitation of ongoing projects and initiatives related to Sustainability / ESG
- Coordinate with site operations teams, sustainability project leaders and corporate resources to develop and maintain site-specific training and signage as part of a continuous effort to raise the visibility of ASR's commitment to sustainable development.
- Tracking and validation of all sustainability / ESG data to ensure accurate reporting.
- Analyse collected data and identifying opportunities for improvements, while ensuring validity of the outcomes and potential communication pathways that may result.
- Support ESG and Site Leadership in creating project scope and justify capital investment needs.
- Interact with personnel to ensure related sustainability training and competency requirements are performed and properly recorded.
- Assist with the development and publication of ASR / facility level Sustainability Reporting efforts, as they develop in conjunction with company approved messaging.
- Coordinate with sales, marketing, customer service & CSR teams as needed to report work, progress and site-specific sustainability data.
- Participate in corporate efforts to identify and reduce post-consumer end of life impacts caused by material production and disposal.
- Support Corporate and site level management system reporting within authorized web-based survey system, while ensuring corrective action tracking and rectification of findings.
- Coordinate with site and corporate public relations or international relations departments for tracking community social engagement and local donations.
- Assist as needed with any third-party sustainability audits and validation programs.
- Be proactive and committed to continuous improvement efforts. Perform other duties as assigned.

## WORK EXPERIENCES

- Minimum of 4 years of experience supporting sustainable development efforts (Environmental and Social Governance; ESG), preferably in an industrial, manufacturing, and/or agricultural setting.
- Experience with third-party validation and auditing relative to sustainable development activities.
- Experience with management system-based risk analysis/ Materiality Assessments and target/objective setting.
- Experience with multi-site sustainability-based project management.

## EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor Degree in Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS), Environmental Science, Engineering, Communication or related field from an accredited university is required.

## ESSENTIAL CAPABILITIES (KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES)

- Knowledge of Sustainability / ESG in industrial / manufacturing organization.
- Experience with operational and facility improvements to meet energy, water, and waste objectives.
- Demonstrated ability to prioritize and balance short and long-term objectives.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills and the ability to represent business interests to internal team and 3rd parties.
- Proactive, self-directed, highly organized, and committed to continuous improvement.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office products (PPT, Excel, Word)

**Letter of application accompanied by a Résumé, Police Record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:**

Human Resources Manager  
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk  
Or email  
HR.Belize@asr-group.com



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 19, 2022.**



Form of Final Notice

In The Matter of the International Business Companies Act (Chapter 270) of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011

And

In Voluntary Liquidation, Members' Winding Up and Dissolution

TAKE NOTICE that the following company has been dissolved and has been struck off the Register:

NAME	REG. NO.
BALKAN TRADING LTD.	8,833

Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

**BARROW & WILLIAMS LLP**  
84 ALBERT STREET  
Email: attorneys@barrowandwilliams.com

**FINAL NOTICE**

# Mansa Musa (Musa I of Mali)

*Mansa Musa (Musa I of Mali) was the king of the ancient empire of Mali in West Africa.*



*Mali's Timbuktu (shown here in this 1858 painting by Heinrich Barth) was known for its schools and libraries.*

Mansa Musa (Musa I of Mali) was the ruler of the kingdom of Mali from 1312 C.E. to 1337 C.E. During his reign, Mali was one of the richest kingdoms of Africa, and Mansa Musa was among the richest individuals in the world. The ancient kingdom of Mali spread across parts of modern-day Mali, Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso. Mansa Musa developed cities like Timbuktu and Gao into important cultural centers. He also brought architects from the Middle East and across Africa to design new buildings for his cities. Mansa Musa turned the kingdom of Mali into a sophisticated center of learning in the Islamic world.

Mansa Musa came to power in 1312 C.E., after the previous king, Abu Bakr II, disappeared at sea. Mansa Abu Bakr II had departed on a large fleet of ships to explore the Atlantic Ocean, and never returned. Mansa Musa inherited a kingdom that was already wealthy, but his work in expanding trade made Mali the wealthiest kingdom in Africa. His riches came from mining significant salt and gold deposits in the Mali kingdom. Elephant ivory was another major source of wealth.

When Mansa Musa went on a pilgrimage (*hajj*) to Mecca in 1324 C.E., his journey through Egypt caused quite a stir. The kingdom of Mali was relatively unknown outside of West Africa until this event. Arab writers from the time said that he travelled with an entourage of tens of thousands of people and dozens of camels, each carrying 136 kilograms (300 pounds) of gold. While in Cairo, Mansa Musa met with the Sultan of Egypt, and his caravan spent and gave away so much gold that the overall value of gold decreased in Egypt for

the next 12 years. Stories of his fabulous wealth even reached Europe. The Catalan Atlas, created in 1375 C.E. by Spanish cartographers, shows West Africa dominated by a depiction of Mansa Musa sitting on a throne, holding a nugget of gold in one hand and a golden staff in the other. After the publication of this atlas, Mansa Musa became cemented in the global imagination as a figure of stupendous wealth.

After his return from Mecca, Mansa Musa began to revitalize cities in his kingdom. He built mosques and large public buildings in cities like Gao and, most famously, Timbuktu. Timbuktu became a major Islamic university center during the 14<sup>th</sup> century due to Mansa Musa's developments. Mansa Musa brought architects and scholars from across the Islamic world into his kingdom, and the reputation of the Mali kingdom grew. The kingdom of Mali reached its greatest extent around the same time, a bustling, wealthy kingdom thanks to Mansa Musa's expansion and administration.

Mansa Musa died in 1337 and was succeeded by his sons. His skillful administration left his empire well-off at the time of his death, but eventually, the empire fell apart. Well after his death, Mansa Musa remained engrained in the imagination of the world as a symbol of fabulous wealth. However, his riches are only one part of his legacy, and he is also remembered for his Islamic faith, promotion of scholarship, and patronage of culture in Mali.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/mansa-musa-musa-i-mali/>

*First published by the National Geographic*

## NOTICE

STANN CREEK DISTRICT

STATUTORY NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TITLE TO LAND BY LONG POSSESSION

Pursuant to Supreme Court Practice Direction No. 2 of 2011 AND Section 42 of the Law of Property Act, Chapter 190 of the Laws of Belize, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application for title, on the ground of long possession of the land described in the schedule below, has been filed at the Supreme Court by Petra Leoba Martinez of 2<sup>nd</sup> New Site, Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District, Belize, the Applicant. Any person/persons objecting to the application must file notice and reason for objection at the Supreme Court no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022 or attend court on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022 at 10:00 a.m. before the Honourable Madam Justice Patricia Farnese for the first hearing of the Application.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising of five acres situate on the Carib Reserve, Stann Creek District, being Block No. 419, bounded and described as shown on Plan No. 77 of 1942 attached to Governors Fiat No. 77 of 1942.

DATED the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

  
**COURTENAY COYE LLP**  
Per: Gavin H. Courtenay  
Attorneys-at-Law

can be heard on the following frequencies:

- 96.5FM in Belize City, Punta Gorda Town, Santa Elena, Cayo and Carmelita Village;
- 91.1FM in Ladyville and Independence;
- 101.1FM in Dangriga Town, Camalote Village and Caye Caulker





# CWU and PBL hold “meaningful talks”

*The parties were granted 6 weeks to finalize an out-of-court settlement*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. May 10, 2022

The seven members of the Christian Workers Union (CWU) being sued by the Port of Belize Ltd. (PBL) for approximately a million dollars (PBL), are currently engaged in out-of-court talks with PBL in an effort to reach a settlement in order to avoid being ordered to give PBL a payout that would likely, in conjunction with the legal fees that would be incurred, far exceed the resources of the union, which had resorted to collecting \$1 donations from supporters in the community. Justice Lisa Shoman granted the two parties 6 weeks to continue dialogue that will hopefully lead to a finalized settlement agreement. Yesterday, the parties appeared before Justice Shoman and gave an update on the discussions that have so far been held, and their attorneys have informed the

court that they have been engaged in talks with the aim of settling the dispute out of court.

The lawsuit stems from an eight-day strike staged by the stevedores in January of this year after their efforts to negotiate better working arrangements and compensation for lost earnings due to the transfer of sugar-loading to Big Creek were met with proposals by PBL that the stevedores found to be insulting and provocative. PBL claims that the strike was illegal

(although there had been a notice of industrial action by the union a few months



*CWU representatives*

before) and that it caused significant economic losses, since the industrial action by stevedores who belong to the CWU prevented the loading and unloading of containers on ships docked at the PBL.

PBL has been claiming a total of \$1.034 million dollars in damages from 7 named members of the union, inclusive of stevedores who sit on the CWU's negotiating team and the president of the CWU, Evan Mose Hyde (and the move has been seen by many trade union activists in Belize as an attempt to deliver a blow to the labor movement in the country). The details of the draft settlement reportedly submitted by Darrell Bradley, attorney for CWU, to PBL have not been released.

It was also reported today that a majority of the ex-gratia payment granted by the Government of Belize to the CWU for suffering and financial losses caused to the stevedores by the privatization of PBL has been disbursed. The CWU confirmed that approximately \$400,000 of the fund remains frozen in the account as a result of a last-minute effort by the PBL to get the court to place a hold on the payment of the funds to the stevedores. This means that approximately \$1.1 million dollars has been paid out to the stevedores.

This case is being heard by Justice Lisa Shoman as a separate matter between the CWU and the employer, PBL.

Whether or not the parties will reach a settlement in the lawsuit for loss of earnings brought by the PBL against its employees will be seen in 6 weeks or so when the parties return to court. If no settlement is reached, the case continues.

The lawsuit has been condemned by both the Belize National Teachers Union and the Public Service Union (PSU), which stated in a press release that the actions of the Port of Belize Ltd. to freeze a payment of \$1.5 million to the stevedores who belong to the CWU was “financial and legal harassment of the CWU, its President, and members by the proprietors of the Port of Belize Ltd. (PBL)” and it condemned the actions of the Port of Belize limited as “a threat to all workers and an attack on the Belizean trade union movement... intimidation and retaliation against workers who choose to collectively bargain in order to better protect their rights when faced with injustice”.



## MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING INVITATION TO QUOTE



### PROCUREMENT OF DUMP TRUCKS AND A 15 SEATER VAN

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to procure twelve (12) Dump Trucks and One (1) 15 Seater Van to facilitate Ministry to undertake maintenance of the Public Road Network.

The MIDH now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified Suppliers for the supply of the following item:

#### Twelve (12) Dump Trucks - 15 cubic Yards and One (1) 15 Seater Van.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedures (Shopping Procedures).

Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the Twelve (12) Dump Trucks and One (1) 15 Seater Van **as of Monday May 13, 2022** from the MIDH's Offices located at #1 Power Lane, Belmopan from Monday through to Friday 8.00 AM – 5.00 PM.

Quotations must utilize forms provided in the Invitation to Quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested. Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **equipment** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **exclusive of both Import Duty and 12.5% General Sales Tax**.

The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Supplier who complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and submitted the lowest evaluated price.

All sealed Quotes must be delivered to the address below by **11.00 AM local time on May 30, 2022** and they will be **opened on the same day at 11.15 A.M.**, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

1. Victor Espat  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing  
#1 Power Lane  
Belmopan, Belize  
Tel: 501-822-2136/39  
Fax: 501-822-3282  
E-mail: [ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz](mailto:ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz)

2. Lennox Bradley  
Chief Engineer  
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing  
#1 Power Lane  
Belmopan, Belize  
Tel: 501-822-2136/39  
Fax: 501-822-3282  
E-mail: [chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz](mailto:chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz)





# National Track & Field Championships this weekend at Marion Jones

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Our sports desk is yet to receive an official notice from the Belize Athletics Association (BAA) on the National Track & Field meet to be held this weekend at the Marion Jones Sports Complex under the auspices of the BAA and its president Deon Sutherland; but from different quarters in the athletics field, we have received information that seems credible, that there will indeed be a big national track and field event this weekend.

On yesterday morning's Krem WUB, Belizean American Greg Meyers, a U.S. certified athletics coach, said his three children who recently participated in the Carifta Games in Jamaica on the Easter weekend, one of whom, then 13-year-old Demetrie, won Silver in the U17 3000m, will all be arriving in Belize on Friday to take part in the National Track & Field Championships 2022 which are scheduled for this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 14 & 15, at the Marion Jones Sports Complex track. A motorcade is planned to celebrate Demetrie's achievement in Belmopan after they arrive on Friday. According to Greg, all the Meyers children have committed to run for Belize in international competition, and he is hoping to inspire other Belizean youth and athletics officials on what is achievable for Belizean athletes with proper training plans and supervision. His kids may not all win, as they are running in age categories well above their actual years, but the dedication and hard work of their training regimen has lifted up their performance to a trajectory that spells a promising future.

We also received a full schedule of the events from Daland Jones, a veteran multi-sport athlete who is currently associated with a track & field club that is participating in the event. Jones is one of those who is not happy with the current BAA leadership and is looking forward to great improvements on the Belize athletics scene.

It is noteworthy that the BAA has not attempted to utilize our medium to help highlight this weekend's national event, and we have to wonder if its embattled president Deon Sutherland has an issue with this newspaper for revealing some of the discontent shared by a number of prominent individuals in the athletics arena. In that regard, we have confirmed reports that a group of "Concerned Belizean Athletes" sent a complaint in early April to World Athletics president, Sir Sebastian Coe, asking for an "investigation into... a recently held presidential election that took place on April 2, 2022, in Belize City." Among the charges made in the letter, was that Sutherland acted in conflict of interest by "dictating the vetting of applications and ruling out persons that knowingly would not support him" in his re-election bid. Sutherland is reportedly still BAA president, having succeeded in the April 2 elections, but yesterday attorney Nicolas Dujon shared with us an email correspondence dated May 10 from the desk of the World Athletics president acknowledging receipt of a "complaint regarding the recently held elective General Assembly of the Belize Athletics Association," and indicating that he had "spoken to the General Secretary of NACAC and he will initiate an investigation."

Those issues certainly should not dampen the spirit of fans and athletes looking forward to compete in Belize's National Track & Field Championships this weekend.

Below is the event schedule for the National Track & Field Championships shared with our news desk by Daland Jones:

### Day 1, Saturday, May 14

- 9:00 a.m. – 100m (W) Semi-final
- 9:15 a.m. – 100m (M) Semi-final
- 9:00 a.m. – High Jump (W) Final
- 9:00 a.m. – Shot-put (M) Final
- 9:35 a.m. – 1500m (W) Final
- 9:50 a.m. – 1500m (M) Final
- 10:00 a.m. – Shot-put (W) Final
- 10:15 a.m. – 400m (W) Semi-final
- 10:20 a.m. – High Jump (M) Final
- 10:30 a.m. – 400m (M) Semi-final
- 10:50 a.m. – 100mH (W) Final
- 11:00 a.m. – 100mH (M) Final
- 11:00 a.m. – Long Jump (W) Final
- 11:00 a.m. – Discus (M) Final
- B R E A K**
- 12:30 p.m. – 100m (W) Final
- 12:45 p.m. – 100m (M) Final
- 1:00 p.m. – Long Jump (M) Final
- 1:00 p.m. – Discus (W) Final
- 1:15 p.m. – 400m (W) Final
- 1:30 p.m. – 400m (M) Final
- 3:00 p.m. – 4x100m Relay (W) Final
- 3:15 p.m. – 4x100m Relay (M) Final

### Day 2, Sunday, May 15

- 8:00 a.m. – 3000m (W) Final
- 8:30 a.m. – 5000m (M) Final
- 9:00 a.m. – 200m (W) Semi-final
- 9:20 a.m. – 200m (M) Semi-final
- 9:30 a.m. – Javelin (W) Final
- 9:45 a.m. – 800m (M) Final
- 10:00 a.m. – 800m (W) Final
- 10:15 a.m. – Triple Jump (W) Final
- 10:30 a.m. – Javelin (M) Final
- 11:15 a.m. – Triple Jump (M) Final
- B R E A K**
- 12:00 noon – 200m (W) Final
- 12:15 p.m. – 200m (M) Final
- 1:30 p.m. – 4x400m Relay (W) Final
- 1:45 p.m. – 4x400m Relay (M) Final

# Bay City FC still undefeated at Week 5 of NAWL Closing Season

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Rumberas FC suffered their first loss in Group A, but Group B's Bay City FC remains undefeated at Week 5 of the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) 2022 Closing Season. All four Week 5 games took place on Saturday, May 7.

In a Group A showdown at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium, it was scoreless in first half, but shortly after second half resumed Jewel Fury's Fatima Romero (52') netted what proved the game winner for the 1-nil victory over Rumberas FC, who suffered their first defeat of the tournament.

The other Group A encounter was at the Norman Broaster Stadium, where this time it was the visitors, Sagitun Girlz FC from Independence who came away with a 4-3 win over Verdes Rebels FC of Cayo. Shaking the net for Sagitun Girlz were Sabrina Eiley (19'), Zulma Ortega (63' & 87') and Reah Burgess (73'); while Verdes' goals were by Nyersha Obando (56') and Shanay Nasario (88' & 90+5').

Meanwhile in Group B at the Carl Ramos Stadium, it was nil-nil in first half, but Cayo Dreamers FC pulled out the 2-1 victory over home standing Wagiya United SC on a late goal by Daysi Paiz. Cayo Dreamers got a goal each from Ilyn Cruz (59') and Daysi Paiz (88'), while Wagiya's lone goal was by Tanya Arnold (66').

In the other Group B match, Corozal's Bay City FC pulled no punches on their district counterpart, Corozal United Warriors, who were demolished, 16-0, by the undefeated group leaders. Bay City goals came from Kaite Jones (7', 35' & 88'), Anahie Blanco (20', 24', 27', 39', 50' & 54'), Alisha Terry (47' & 56'), Ashari Zuniga (59'), Shante Chacon (66' & 71'), Darina Tzul (70') and Marcia Ara (89').

Upcoming NAWL Week 6 schedule:

### Saturday, May 14

- 3:00 p.m. – (A) Verdes Rebels vs San Pedro Pirates – Norman Broaster Stadium
- 4:00 p.m. – (A) Jewel Fury FC vs Sagitun Girlz – Isidoro Beaton Stadium
- 3:00 p.m. – (B) Corozal United Warriors vs Santa Elena Strikers – Ricalde Stadium

### Sunday, May 15

- 3:00 p.m. – Bay City FC vs Wagiya United SC – Ricalde Stadium

Nat'l Amateur Women's League 2022 Closing Season								
Standings at Week 5, Saturday, May 7, 2022								
GROUP A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Sagitun Girlz	4	3	0	1	10	8	2	9
Jewel Fury FC	4	2	1	1	8	3	5	7
Rumberas	4	2	1	1	5	1	4	7
San Pedro Pirates	4	1	1	2	3	7	-4	4
Verdes Rebels	4	0	1	3	4	11	-7	1
GROUP B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Bay City FC	4	4	0	0	38	0	38	12
Cayo Dreamers	4	3	0	1	13	6	7	9
Wagiya United SC	4	2	0	2	14	6	8	6
Corozal United Warriors	3	0	0	3	0	23	-23	0
Santa Elena Strikers	3	0	0	3	0	30	-30	0



# COVID-19 uptick in Belize and Cayo

**“An unvaccinated person is 24 times more likely to die compared to a completely vaccinated person,” Dr. Natalia Beer, advisor in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, said.**

**Continued from** Page 1

masks be worn in public. The release urges the public to wear masks indoors and in crowded spaces, to wash and/or sanitize hands regularly and to practice social distancing in light of the rising numbers being recorded after GoB’s lifting of the major Covid-19-prevention restrictions and the resulting increase in movement and interaction among the populace.

“We haven’t identified any specific clusters in these districts as yet, but definitely it is, first, the decrease of the public health measures, the use of the masks, the use of the social distancing, and more socializing. When we look at the data over the last two weeks, we know that persons between the ages of 20 and 39 were the persons who are testing positive, so that is the workforce and that is more than likely persons going out and socializing a little bit more, followed by the age group of 40 to 59. When you look at persons 80 and over and 60 and over, the positivity rate is much less, so it tells us that it’s due to moving. We know already how COVID spread, and this is just the proof of what we have been saying in regards to the benefits of the public health measures,” Dr. Melissa Diaz-Musa, Director of Public

Health and Wellness, stated during a ZOOM press conference yesterday.

The Covid-19 positivity rate has doubled over the past couple of days, and the Health Ministry is now rolling out increased surveillance to pinpoint the source of the outbreak and any cluster of cases that might require isolation. In the meantime, the health experts are encouraging the public to continue to wear masks and practice the prevention guidelines, despite the relaxation of restrictions.

“I can speak personally, I wear masks everywhere, all day,” Dr. Natalia Beer, an advisor in the Ministry of Health, said. “I know it had been lifted....yes, the numbers justify the removal of the face mask, but I mean you have to protect yourself, and we have enough information. Every person has enough information right now to know that if you are going into an environment where there is a lot of persons, they can’t maintain physical distance, but on your masks I mean, it become a habit now soh...” she added.

While the use of masks has, as Dr. Beer outlined, become embedded in muscle memory for many, a large number of Belizeans, after the lifting of the mask mandate, have opted to leave the masks behind altogether, while using public transportation, and attending large social events. There have been numerous instances recently of large numbers of citizens gathered indoors, in close proximity to each other, and maskless.

“With regards to masks, I think many of us, especially in the health sector, continue wearing our masks. We know the risk. We know how COVID spreads, and we know how we can mitigate some of the spread, and like Dr. Beer said, especially if you are at an indoor place that is very crowded and you can’t maintain the distance that you would like to, the safest thing is to put your masks on.” Dr. Diaz-Musa remarked.

Dr. Beer, in her presentation, spoke about the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign and noted that 49% of the population have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccination, which consists of the first two shots. While this is far from the goal of vaccinating 85% of the population, Dr. Beer said that 68.7% of persons eligible to receive vaccines (persons 12 years of age and older) have already gotten the jab, and in some cases boosters.

“What we did was look back at the data from June 1, 2021, to up to date, and we used the standard method of age-adjusted mortality rates to compare the risk of death between being vaccinated or an unvaccinated person....because our figures are small we used the 10,000 as the denominator, and you all can see the COVID-19 mortality rate or deaths for every 10,000 persons in Belize who

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**DEADLINE: Monday May 20th, 2022**

## Belize City centenarian Leonora Patnett dies at 108

**Continued from** Page 1

she told News5 reporters on her 106th birthday in 2019.

She also gave credit to not drinking, not smoking, and making healthy food choices.

Last year, on her 108th birthday, Patnett was visited by Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño; Albert area representative, Hon. Tracy Panton, and Belize City mayor, Hon. Bernard Wagner at her Wagner’s Lane residence—the place where she spent much of her life, including during 1961’s Hurricane Hattie. She was gifted with a birthday cake, a card, balloons, and a special care package containing grocery items, vitamins, and other products.

Up until the time of her death, Miss Leonora Patnett, who was the aunt of musical legend Wilfred Peters, was Belize’s oldest woman. She passed away peacefully in her home on Wagner’s Lane.

Her grandson, Lindbergh Sedacy, wrote the following about her passing:

“May she have a peaceful journey back to the stars from where she came. I love you granny, may Yahweh welcome you home.”

## VACANCY FOR LEGAL SECRETARY

A vacancy exists at a law firm in Belize City for a Legal Secretary.

Qualifications and Experience:

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- Answering calls and responding to general emails;
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- Preparing and filing court documents and documents at various government departments;
- Taking notes at meetings with clients;
- Maintaining files fully organized, including copies of all documents and correspondences.

**Qualifications:**

- Minimum qualifications: An Associate’s Degree; previous legal experience or prior legal training would be an advantage
- Must be quick learner and must have excellent communication, organizational and computer skills
- Must be able to work efficiently under pressure and effectively perform tasks in a timely manner.

Kindly send your application and resume by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to:

**Manager  
P. O. Box 1246  
Belize City, BELIZE**

are fully vaccinated is 1.9% ; for persons who are not vaccinated it’s 48.43%. “ said Dr. Beer.

She suggested that looking at the data in this manner gives a clearer and more meaningful view of the benefits of being vaccinated, and the risks of being unvaccinated. “That means that an unvaccinated person is 24 times more likely to die compared to a completely vaccinated person,” Dr. Beer said.

Dr. Beer agrees that this data, however, while providing general numbers on mortality during the pandemic, needs to be disaggregated in order to give a clearer view of the mortalities and risk factors for those who are unvaccinated, taking into consideration age and pre-existing conditions. The Ministry of Health and Wellness is calling on citizens to

continue taking advantage of the vaccinations that are still within the country at this time, and has noted that at the end of May, the remaining Pfizer vaccines will expire and be discarded, leaving only Johnson and Johnson vaccines available within the country. The Ministry has plans to acquire a new supply of Pfizer vaccines to continue the vaccination of those in the 11-17 age category and to start the inoculation of children between 5 and 11 years old.

“We continue to liaise with other countries and COVAX and through the CARICOM to access more vaccines, but, umm, at this point it is still in negotiations, so I have no specific data to share with you all as to when we will restock for Pfizer vaccines,” Dr. Beer said.



## Over Half of Young People With Depression Don't Get Help for at Least a Year

by George Citroner on May 11, 2022 — Fact checked by Dana K. Cassell (Healthline.com)

Researchers from the City University of New York found many young adults experiencing a major depressive episode (MDE) aren't seeking needed mental health care.

Study co-author Wenhua Lu, PhD, assistant medical professor, CUNY School of Medicine, told Healthline she'd conducted previous research that showed widening treatment gaps for young adults with depression over the past decade.

Wu said they wanted to "understand why young adults with major depression did not use mental health services in the past decade."

### Over half reported not receiving treatment for depression

Wu's study Trusted Source analyzed data 2011-2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health from over 21,000 patients ages 18 to 25 diagnosed with an MDE in the previous 12 months, with more than 11,000 self-reporting they had not received any treatment.

The study was published this week in *JAMA Network Open*. Trusted Source

Researchers found that cost was consistently the greatest barrier to seeking treatment for depression among young adults from 2011 to 2019.

"I was not surprised that cost remains the top barrier to seeking depression treatment among young adults," said Wu. "As it requires fundamental systemic change to address the affordability issue of mental health treatment."

What was surprising, she said, was that more young adults reported inadequate insurance coverage for depression treatment in recent years.

"Considering that evidence has shown the effectiveness of Medicaid expansion has reduced the rate of uninsured individuals and improved access to care for adults with depression since its implementation in 2014," said Wu.

Findings indicate that women represented over 60 percent of the untreated, and 39.4 percent were between 18 and 21.

About 30 percent of those untreated for MDE had a household income below \$20,000, and over half lived with severe impairments related to the condition.

The study authors noted that relying on self-reported data might have skewed their findings due to social desirability bias Trusted Source.

Lu and their team also found socio-demographic gaps in mental healthcare.

They discovered that white participants were more likely to find treatment than Hispanic and Asian participants. Hispanic individuals were also more concerned about others finding out they sought treatment.

Male participants were more concerned than surveyed female participants about negative reactions

from neighbors or their communities if they sought treatment.

Indigenous people reported significant financial barriers to MDE treatment.

Native Americans were over three times more likely than whites to lack insurance coverage for mental healthcare, and researchers pointed out that new policies are needed "to close the Medicaid coverage gap, especially for Native American individuals."

### More effort needed

Wu said that based on her findings, many young adults with depression still don't seek treatment because of stigma and lack of motivation.

She warned that untreated depression increases a young adult's risk for alcohol and drug use disorders.

"More seriously," Wu said. "Depression can lead to suicide, which is one of the three leading causes of death among young adults ages 18 to 25."

She emphasized that continued efforts are needed to destigmatize mental health treatment at the community level, particularly for college students and young men.

### Many factors contribute to rising depression

Dr. Alex Dimitriu, double board certified in psychiatry and sleep medicine and founder of Menlo Park Psychiatry & Sleep Medicine and BrainfoodMD, said people ages 18 to 25 face specific stressors that may make them more likely to be depressed.

"As teenagers leave their homes and effectively start their lives," Dimitriu said. "The impact of social media and the internet may be particularly stifling to this important period of coming of age."

He explained that the 18 to 25 age group is a time of significant socialization.

While the study looked at data from before the COVID-19 pandemic started, new research has found an increase of people with symptoms of depression during the pandemic, according to a 2021 study published in the *Lancet Regional Health – Americas*. Trusted Source

"It is possible that during COVID and more generally, in a time of increased social media and less in-person socialization, we may be seeing a rise in the rates of depression and anxiety," said Dimitriu.

Dimitriu said depression could severely affect how we perceive life experiences.

"Untreated depression as well as other mental health conditions result in what I call 'missed magical moments,'" he said. "It's those times when everything around you is going well, but you are emotionally absent."

He advised that online questionnaires and even brief online consultations with mental health professionals should be made more readily available. Additionally, he said legal changes could be made that could facilitate getting people into treatment

## Hunt for killers of anti-mafia prosecutor on honeymoon



Marcelo Pecci

by Vanessa Buschschlüter  
BBC News

### Police from Colombia and Paraguay are working with agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the FBI to hunt down the killers of an anti-mafia prosecutor.

Paraguayan prosecutor Marcelo Pecci, 45, was shot dead on Tuesday on a beach in Colombia, where he was on honeymoon.

Pecci investigated high-profile corruption and money-laundering cases in his native Paraguay.

His murder was likely related to his fight against crime, police say.

Pecci and his wife were on the sixth and final day of their honeymoon in Colombia when he was killed on Baru, an idyllic island off the Caribbean coast.

Just two hours earlier, his wife, journalist Claudia Aguilera, had posted a picture on her Instagram account announcing that they were expecting a baby.

She said that they were on a stretch of private beach of Decameron Hotel on Tuesday morning when her husband was targeted.

"Two men attacked Marcelo. They came in a small boat, or on a jet ski, the truth is I did not see well," she told *El Tiempo* newspaper.

She said that one of the men got off and "without a word he shot Marcelo twice, one [bullet] hit him in the face and another in the back".

Colombian police have released a blurry photo and a sketch of a suspect and announced a \$500,000 (£410,000) reward for information leading to an arrest.

Police Chief Jorge Vargas said that US and Paraguayan investigators would help Colombian security forces

hunt down the killers and those who may have ordered the assassination.

Gen Vargas said that the "big hypothesis" was that the murder was related to some of the high-profile cases Pecci had been involved in Paraguay.

Pecci was part of "A Ultranza Py", the biggest operation against cocaine trafficking and money laundering in Paraguay's history.

According to Paraguayan media, the operation broke up a ring which smuggled drugs from cocaine-producing hotspots Colombia and Bolivia through Paraguay to Europe.

Pecci was part of the international team which earlier this year seized hundreds of millions of dollars in assets and arrested dozens of suspects.

The US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs said that "Pecci's work fighting organised crime stands as an example to us all - especially his efforts to bring to justice those who engaged in money laundering, drug trafficking, and corruption".

While Pecci had bodyguards in Paraguay, he did not have any protection while on his honeymoon in Colombia and the Colombian police said it had not been aware of his presence in the country.

His wife said that he had not received any threats although a friend of Pecci's has since told Paraguayan media of a suspicious incident on his wedding day.

Sebastian Achá told ABC newspaper that a SUV without number plates had tried to block Pecci's car on his way back from the ceremony on 30 April, an attempt which was thwarted by Pecci's bodyguard, who was driving at the time.

*Our email address for news, letters and articles is editor\_amandala@yahoo.com*

at a lower cost.

"Laws should be changed to make it easier for doctors and therapists to provide guidance more readily and with less liability," emphasized Dimitriu. "This would reduce the overhead of seeking and getting help."

### The bottom line

Many young adults aren't seeking needed treatment for depression, according to new research.

Experts say there are several reasons why, but that cost is the greatest factor.





PRESS RELEASE

**BELIZE’S TOURISM REBOUNDS: OUTLOOK FOR FURTHER GROWTH REMAINS POSITIVE**

**Belize City, Belize, May 10, 2022:** The latest statistics for both overnight tourist arrivals and cruise tourism provide a clear indication that Belize’s tourism is moving fast on its path to recovery since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year’s quarterly figures show that overnight tourist arrivals to Belize totaled over 97,000, with the largest number of overnight visitors recorded in the month of March, with over 41,000 overnight visitors. Traditionally, March has been the peak of the tourism high season (Pre-Covid). With the steady growth in the first quarter, the outlook remains positive as Belize’s tourism industry rebounds.

Meanwhile, for the first quarter of 2022, there were a total of 48 cruise ship calls and over 199,000 cruise ship passengers, with the largest number recorded in March, with over 93,000 passengers. The total includes cruise arrivals from both cruise ports, Fort Street Tourism Village (FSTV) and Harvest Caye.

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) remains committed to working in partnership with its local and international industry stakeholders. Together, we will aggressively and effectively promote Belize as the leading tourism destination and achieve full recovery of the industry for the benefit of both Belizeans and visitors.

**Overnight Tourist Arrivals breakdown:**

	2019	% change vs. '18	2020	% change vs. '19	2021	% change vs. '20	2022 (P)	% change vs. '21
Jan	50,590	4.0	48,554	-4.0	6,908	-85.8	25,661	271.5
Feb	49,868	8.7	50,817	1.9	7,938	-84.4	30,238	280.9
Mar	57,697	6.2	23,962	-58.5	15,444	-35.5	41,879	171.2
Apr	46,694	15.8	689	-98.5	14,609	2,020.4		
May	36,779	3.0	543	-98.5	20,814	3,736.1		
Jun	42,938	-1.0	212	-99.5	26,362	12,321.9		
Jul	45,196	-2.3	621	-98.6	27,742	4,366.3		
Aug	33,764	-3.1	705	-97.9	16,782	2,278.8		
Sep	19,645	-8.5	772	-96.1	11,685	1,413.9		
Oct	25,341	1.6	3,179	-87.5	13,574	327.0		
Nov	38,981	0.4	4,856	-87.5	22,848	370.5		
Dec	55,674	2.1	9,213	-83.5	34,286	272.1		
	503,166	2.8	144,124	-71.4	218,991	51.9	97,778	222.8

**Cruise Ship Passenger Arrivals breakdown:**

	2019	% change vs. '18	2020	% change vs. '19	2021	% change vs. '20	2022 (P)	% change vs. '21
Jan	165,885	26.1	156,240	-5.8	0	-100.0	47,154	-
Feb	147,926	24.5	118,241	-20.1	0	-100.0	58,239	-
Mar	143,176	8.4	68,618	-52.1	0	-100.0	93,836	-
Apr	104,775	14.8	0	-100.0	0	0.0		
May	80,993	-1.3	0	-100.0	0	0.0		
Jun	55,012	-25.6	0	-100.0	0	0.0		
Jul	76,813	-6.6	0	-100.0	11,401	0.0		
Aug	66,168	-27.5	0	-100.0	14,932	0.0		
Sep	47,629	-28.8	0	-100.0	22,180	0.0		
Oct	53,763	-28.8	0	-100.0	23,571	0.0		
Nov	103,978	-7.4	0	-100.0	49,344	0.0		
Dec	124,440	-17.2	0	-100.0	88,778	0.0		
	1,170,558	-3.1	343,099	-70.7	210,206	-38.7	199,229	-





# Sales Agents

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- \* Community Drug Store
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- \* Puma Freetown
- \* Cambranes
- \* J & K Supermarket
- \* Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
- \* Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- \* Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- \* JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- \* 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Freetown Drug Store
- \* Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- \* Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
- \* James Brodie & Co., Albert St., and Philip Goldson Highway
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Pharmacy
- \* Save-U Supermarket

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- \* Placencia Office Supplies

## LADYVILLE

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## BELMOPAN

- Dakers Stationery & Books
- \* Hydes Mini Market
- \* First Choice Variety Gift Shop
- \* Shell Service Station
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- \* St. Vincent Convenience Store

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- \* Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare  
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## INDEPENDENCE

- \* G N J Mart

## PUNTA GORDA

- \* King's Texaco
- \* NJV Pharmacy

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